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U. S. Department of Justice

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Serial 39
390450

Serial #3

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FEDERAL BUREAU

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INVESTIGATION

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SERIALS 1

100-HQ-2237

SECTION 1

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HARRY CHAPELL

10 Lincoln Place, Weehawken, N.J., 9/24/40.

Department of Justice,

Atten. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 JRM/rtc

The appended article was printed in the New York Times issue of Sunday, September 22, 1940 and if based on proven facts, should be of vital importance to our War Department as well as to that of other nations now controlled by insane dictators.

If, as the author states, the teleforce has been perfected by Nikola Tesla, it would be a measure of foresightedness to insure his constant guarding against his being molested, possibly kidnapped and tortured, by alien enemies for the purpose of seizing the secret of such an invaluable instrument of war and/or defense

The foregoing is offered just in case the article and its inferences have not been called to your attention.

Very truly yours

H. Chapell

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED & INDEXED

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LIFE DIVISION

Mark. 10/1/40 ENT-2m

100-2237-1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
2 SEP 25 1940
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

for producing rays other manifestations of energy free air, eliminating the necessity for a high vacuum; a second is a method and process for producing "very great electrical force"; the third is a method for amplifying this force, and the fourth is a new method for producing "a tremendous electrical repelling force." This would be the projector, or gun, of the system. The voltage for propelling the beam to its objective, according to the inventor, will attain a potential of 50,000,000 volts.

With this enormous voltage, he said, microscopic electrical particles of matter will be catapulted on their mission of defensive destruction. He has been working on this invention, he added, for many years and has recently made a number of improvements in it.

Mr. Tesla makes one important stipulation. Should the government decide to take up his offer he would go to work at once, but they would have to trust him. He would suffer "no interference from experts."

In ordinary times such a condition would very likely interpose an insuperable obstacle. But times being what they are, and with the nation getting ready to spend billions for national defense, at the same time taking in consideration the reputation of Mr. Tesla as an inventor who always was many years ahead of his time, the question arises whether it may not be advisable to take Mr. Tesla at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his teleforce plant.

Such a Device "Invaluable"

After all, \$2,000,000 would be relatively a very small sum compared with what is at stake. If Mr. Tesla really fulfills his promise the result achieved would be truly staggering. Not only would it save billions now planned for air defense, by making the country absolutely impregnable against any air attack, but it would also save many more billions in property that would otherwise be surely destroyed no matter how strong the defenses are as witness current events in England.

Take, for example, the Panama Canal. No matter how strong the defenses, a suicide squadron of dive bombers, according to some experts, might succeed in getting through and cause such damage that would make the Canal unusable, in which case our Navy might find itself bottled up.

Considering the probabilities in the case even if the chances were 100,000 to 1 against Mr. Tesla the odds would still be largely in favor of taking a chance on spending \$2,000,000. In the opinion of the writer, who has known Mr. Tesla for many years and can testify that he still retains full intellectual vigor, the authorities in charge of building the national defense should at once look into the matter. The sum is insignificant compared with the magnitude of the stake.

"Death Ray" for Planes

Nikola Tesla, one of the truly great inventors who celebrated his eighty-fourth birthday on July 10, tells the writer that he stands ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce," with which, he said, airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles, so that an invisible Chinese Wall of Defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy air force, no matter how large.

This "teleforce," he said, is based on an entirely new principle of physics that "no one has ever dreamed about," different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he has received a number of basic patents. This new type of force, Mr. Tesla said, would operate through a beam one one-hundred-millionth of a square centimeter in diameter, and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than \$2,000,000 and would take only about three months to construct.

A dozen such plants, located at strategic points along the coast, according to Mr. Tesla, would be enough to defend the country against all possible aerial attack. The beam would melt any engine, whether Diesel or gasoline-driven, and would also ignite the explosives aboard any bomber. No possible defense against it could be devised, he asserts, as the beam would be all-penetrating.

High Vacuum Eliminated

The beam, he states, involves four new inventions, two of which already have been tested. One of these is a method and apparatus

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DATE 7-19-92 BY SP1 BSC/MK

100-2237-1

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

EWT:ZM
100-2237-1

October 1, 1940

Mr. Harry Chapell
10 Lincoln Place
Weehawken, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Chapell:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 24, 1940, together with its enclosure.

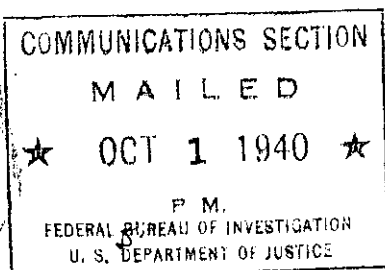
Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 12 1943

TELETYPE

1-12-43

11-06 PM

WHS

FBI NYC
DIRECTOR
VEST

UNSUBS --- EQUIPMENT, EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA, DE-
CEASED, ~~ESPIONAGE~~ - M. RETEL UNDER ABOVE HEADING TO THE BUREAU
FROM THIS OFFICE DATED JAN NINE LAST. INQUIRY DEVELOPS THAT TESLA DIED
JAN EIGHT, RATHER THAN THURSDAY, JAN SEVEN, AS ~~STATE~~ STATED IN
REFERENCE TELETYPE. ON THE NIGHT OF JAN EIGHT, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE
CLARK, AND KENNETH SWEZEY VISITED TESLA-S HOTEL WITH A REPRESENTATIVE
OF SHAW WALKER CO. IN ORDER TO OPEN THE SAFE IN THE ROOM OF TESLA.
KOSANOVICH LATER REPORTED TO WALTER GORSUCH, OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
CUSTODIAN, NYC, THAT HE WENT INTO THE ROOM IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR A
WILL OF TESLA. KOSANOVICH AND THE OTHERS MADE THE SEARCH OF THE SAFE
IN THE PRESENCE OF THREE ASST MANAGERS OF HOTEL NEW YORKER AS WELL AS
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YUGOSLAVIAN CONSULATE, IDENTITIES OF LATTER NOT
YET KNOWN. AFTER THE SAFE WAS OPENED, SWEZEY, TOOK FROM THE SAFE A
BOOK CONTAINING TESTIMONIALS SENT TO TESLA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS SEVEN-
TY FIFTH BIRTHDAY. THIS BOOK WAS ARRANGED FOR TESLA BY SWEZEY.
KOSANOVICH TOOK FROM THE ROOM THREE PICTURES OF TESLA, TWO BEING EN-
LARGED NEWSPAPER PICTUREX. ACCORDING TO MANAGERS OF HOTEL AND KOSANO-
VICH HIMSELF, NOTHING ELSE WAS REMOVED FROM THE ROOM OR SAFE. THE
SAFE WAS THEN CLOSED UNDER A NEW COMBINATION, WHICH COMBINATION IS
NOW IN POSSESSION OF ~~KOSANOVICH~~ KOSANOVICH. ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JAN
NINE, GORSUCH AND ~~FITZGERALD~~ FTZGERALD OF ALIEN PROPERTY CONTROL WENT TO
HOTEL AND SEIZED ALL THE PROPERTY OF TESLA, CONSISTING OF ABOUT TWO
TRUCKLOADS OF MATERIAL, SEALED ALL ARTICLES AND TRANSFERRED THEM TO
THE MANHATTAN STORAGE AND WAREHOUSE CO. NY, WHERE THEY ARE NOW LOCATED.
AT THAT ~~TIME~~ TIME THERE WERE ALSO IN THIS WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY
THIRTY BARRELS AND BUNDLES BELONGING TO TESLA WHICH HAD BEEN THERE SINCE
ABOUT NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR. THESE HAVE ALSO ~~BEN~~ BEEN SEALED AND
ARE NOW UNDER ORDERS OF ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN. IN VIEW OF FACT TESLA
IS A US NATURALIZED CITIZEN, ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN FEELS THAT ITS
JURISDICTION OVER PROPERTY IS DOUBTFUL BUT ~~RELA~~ FEELS THAT NO OTHER
AGENCY WILL BE ABLE TO GET ~~TO~~ TO THIS PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST TWO DAYS.

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100-2237-2
16 JAN 13 1943

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77 FEB 5 1943

PAGE TWO

AFTER THAT TIME IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR WILL BE APPOINTED FOR THE PROPERTY WHO MAY TAKE THE PROPERTY INTO HIS CUSTODY. TESLA ALSO HAD SOME PROPERTY, ~~ALL THIS~~ ALLEGED BY INFORMANT FITZGERALD IN THIS CASE, TO BE A WORKING MODEL OF AN INVENTION IN A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX IN GOVERNOR CLINTON HOTEL IN NY. INQUIRY SHOWS THAT THIS WAS PLACED HERE BY TESLA IN NINETEEN THIRTY TWO AS SECURITY FOR FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS OWED HOTEL. THIS BILL IS STILL OWED AND HOTEL APPEARS UNWILLING TO RELEASE THIS PROPERTY TO ANYONE AT LEAST UNTIL ~~DEBT~~ DEBT IS PAID, BUT THIS OFFICE WILL BE ADVISED IF ANYONE ATTEMPTS TO PAY BILL AND OBTAIN PROPERTY. CONCERNING TESLA HOTEL MANAGERS REPORT HE WAS ~~VERY~~ VERY ECCENTRIC IF NOT ~~MENTALLY~~ MENTALLY DERANGED DURING PAST TEN YEARS AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS CREATED ANYTHING OF VALUE DURING THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH PRIOR TO THAT HE PROBABLY WAS A VERY BRILLIANT INVENTOR. THEREFORE, ANY NOTES OF VALUE WERE PROBABLY THOSE MADE PRIOR TO THAT TIME. KOSANOVICH IS A NEPHEW OF TESLA WHO DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FORMERLY QUOTE YUGOSLAV MINISTER OF STATE UNQUOTE AND NOW QUOTE ~~PRESENTLY~~ PRESIDENT OF EASTERN AND CENTRAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTING YUGOSLOVIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND GREECE, UNQUOTE. SWEZEY IS A WRITER FOR POPULAR MECHANICS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHO IS ~~DESIRING~~ DESIROUS OF PUBLISHING A BIOGRAPHY OF TESLA AND THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN CONTROL OF HIS NOTES FOR THIS WORK. CLARK IS EMPLOYED BY RCA AND WOULD ALSO PROVIDE STORAGE ROOM FOR TESLA'S EFFECTS IN ORDER TO USE THEM IN WRITING A BIOGRAPHY. TESLA AT ONE TIME REPORTED TO BE WORKING ON EXPERIMENTS FOR YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. IT IS DESIRED THAT BUREAU ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHETHER IT IS INTERESTED FURTHER IN THIS PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OF TAKING CONTROL OF IT. SUGGEST THAT, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE NOTES AND OTHER MATERIAL WOULD BE HIGHLY TECHNICAL IN CHARACTER AND FOR THAT REASON ~~WAS~~ COULD NOT BE REVIEWED ~~BY~~ EXCEPT BY A TRAINED PERSON THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

FOXWORTH

END NYC S2 WHS
HOLD WA R 2 RSG

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DATE 7-13-82 BY SP1 JBY/mrc

FBI NYC
DIRECTOR
COAT

1-9-43

11-30 PM

DHK

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH OF NIKOLA TESLA, DECEASED. ESPIONAGE - M. NIKOLA TESLA, ONE OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTANDING SCIENTISTS IN THE ELECTRICAL FIELD, DIED JANUARY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE AT THE HOTEL NEW YORKER, NEW YORK CITY. DURING HIS LIFETIME, HE CONDUCTED MANY EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER AND ~~WHAT~~ WHAT IS COMMONLY CALLED THE DEATH RAY. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A N SPANEL, ONE ONE THREE SIX FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY, THE NOTES AND RECORDS OF TESLA'S EXPERIMENTS AND FORMULAE TOGETHER WITH DESIGNS OF MACHINERY NECESSARY TO VITALIZE THEM ARE AMONG TESLA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PRESERVE THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FROM FALLING INTO HANDS OF PEOPLE ~~UNFRIENDLY~~ UNFRIENDLY TO THE WAR EFFORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS. ACCORDING TO SPANEL, A DISTANT RELATIVE OF TESLA, NAMED SAVA KOSANOVICH, WHO WAS INTENSELY DISLIKED BY TESLA, IS TAKING STEPS TO GET POSSESSION OF THESE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND PLANS. SPANEL BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT KOSANOVICH WILL MAKE THIS MATERIAL AVAILABLE TO THE ENEMY. SPANEL ADVISED G TWO HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS MR. MORKIN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE ABOVE. SPANEL WAS ALSO INTELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION WITH ~~DR D~~ DR D LOZADO, ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO VICE PRESIDENT WALLACE CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND LOZADO TOLD SPANEL ~~THAT~~ THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS VITALLY INTERESTED IN THE EFFECTS OF TESLA AND REQUESTED SPANEL TO LOSE NO TIME IN DOING ALL HE COULD TO PRESERVE ~~THESE~~ THEM. BLOYCE FITZGERALD, AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER WHO HAD BEEN QUITE CLOSE TO TESLA DURING HIS LIFE TIME, ADVISED THE NEW YORK OFFICE THAT ON JANUARY SEVENTH, NINETEEN FORTY THREE, SAVA KOSANOVICH, GEORGE CLARK, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE MUSEUM AND LABORATORY FOR RCA, AND KENNETH SWEZEY OF ONE SIX THREE MILTON STREET, BROOKLYN, NY, WENT TO TESLA'S ROOMS IN THE NEW YORKER, AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A ~~LOCKSMITH~~ LOCKSMITH BROKE INTO A SAFE WHICH TESLA HAD IN HIS ROOMS IN WHICH HE KEPT SOME OF HIS VALUABLE PAPERS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT ~~ELECTRICAL~~ ELECTRICAL FORMULAE, DESIGNS, ET CETERA. WITHIN THE LAST MONTH, TESLA TOLD FITZGERALD THAT HIS EXPERIMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICAL POWER HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND PERFECTED.

Memo Mr. Ladd
1/11/43 JBL

Memo to Director
1/11/43 JBL

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100-2237-3

10 JAN 18 1943

FIVE

PAGE TWO

FITZGERALD ALSO KNOWS THAT TESLA HAS CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED A REVOLUTION-
ARY TYPE OF TORPEDO WHICH IS NOT PRESENTLY IN USE BY ANY OF THE NATIONS.
IT IS FITZGERALD'S BELIEF THAT THIS DESIGN HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE
TO ANY NATION UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. FROM STATEMENTS MADE TO FITZ-
GEARLD BY TESLA, HE KNOWS THAT THE COMPLETE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS
AND EXPLANATION OF THE BASIC THEORIES OF THESE THINGS ARE SOME PLACE IN
THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TESLA. HE ALSO KNOWS THAT THERE IS A WORKING
MODEL OF TESLA'S WHICH COST MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUILD IN
SAFETY ~~DEPOSIT~~ DEPOSIT BOX BELONGING TO TESLA AT THE GOVERNOR
CLINTON H ~~HOTEL~~ HOTEL, AND ~~FITZGERALD~~ FITZGEARLD BELIEVES THIS MODEL
HAS TO DO WITH THE SO CALLED DEATH RAY OR THE WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF
ELECTRICAL CURRENT. TESLA HAS ALSO TOLD FITZGEARLD IN PAST CONVERSATIONS
THAT HE HAS SOME ~~BOX~~ EIGHTY ~~TRUNKS~~ TRUNKS IN DIFFERENT PLACES CONTAINING
TRANSCRIPTS AND PLANS HAVING TO DO WITH EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY HIM.
BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE IMMEDIATELY WHAT, IF ANY, ACTION SHOULD
BE TAKEN CONCERNING THIS MATTER BY THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION.

FOXWORTH

CORRECTION- THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE TELETYPE THE NAME THAT SHOULD APPEAR
IS ~~FITZGERALD~~ NOT FITZGERALD ~~AS~~ AS IT SOMETIMES IS
SPELLED

OLD

DEAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JBL:ed

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

January 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

**RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
EXPERIMENTS AND RESEARCH
OF NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
ESPIONAGE - M**

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E.A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, died at his residence in the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, on January 7, 1943. In the course of his life, Tesla conducted many experiments with respect to the transmission of electrical power by means of radio and what is commonly called the "Death Ray". His experiments with respect to the wireless transmission of electrical power were reported to have been completed and perfected, and Tesla had also conceived and designed a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not in use by any nation up to the present time. The specifications, explanations of the basic theories, and working models of Tesla's scientific endeavors are reported to be among his effects. Tesla is reported to have some 80 trunks in different places containing transcripts and plans having to do with his experiments as well as a working model of one of his developments in the safety deposit box at the Governor Clinton Hotel.

Information concerning Tesla's experiments has been reported to the New York Office by A. N. Spanel and Blyce Fitzgerald, the latter an electrical engineer who had been quite close to Tesla. Both of these individuals have indicated that no steps have been taken to preserve Tesla's records and models or to keep them from falling into the hands of individuals sympathetic to the Axis powers.

Tesla has a distant relative by the name of Sava Kosanovich, whom he intensely disliked. Kosanovich is reported to be taking steps to get possession of these important documents and plans, and Spanel believes there is a strong likelihood that Kosanovich will make such information available to the enemy. On January 7, 1943, Kosanovich, accompanied by George Clark, in charge of the Museum and Laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey of Brooklyn, New York, entered Tesla's rooms at the Hotel New Yorker where, with the aid of a locksmith, they broke into a safe in which Tesla kept some of his valuable papers, including important electrical formulae, designs, et cetera.

Mr. Spanel, in addition to reporting these developments to the Bureau, has also advised the headquarters of the Military Intelligence Division, a Mr. Morkin of the Department of Justice in Washington, and Dr. Lozano of the advisors to Vice President Wallace. Lozano advised Spanel that the Government was vitally interested in the effects of Tesla and requested that Spanel lose no time in doing all he could to preserve them.

55 JAN 26 1943

1-12-43



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

EAT:DS

January 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

On Friday, January 8th, Mr. L. M. C. Smith called me in connection with the death of Nikola Tesla. He advised me that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla, who had died on January 7th. He understood that the War Department was interested in this matter and that apparently the Alien Property Custodian's office was taking some action. He desired to know whether the Bureau would take some steps to refrain relatives of Tesla from taking the contents of his trunks and whether the Bureau would seize possession of the trunks. Mr. Smith indicated that he was talking to the Alien Property Custodian along the same lines. I told him that in view of the fact he was going to handle the matter with the Alien Property Custodian's office, there did not appear to be any action which the Bureau could or should take.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 JIM/PLC

Very truly yours,

Edw. A. Tamm

1 ENCLOSURE
me
JG-14

12 30 pm 1/13/43
Called Donegan
& instructed for
further action



53 JAN 22 1943

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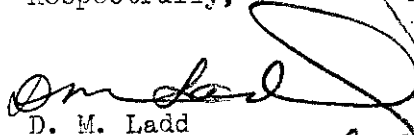
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1 JAN 13 1943	

Memorandum for the Director

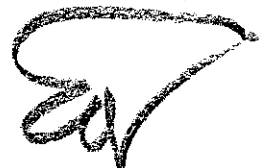
- 2 -

The New York Office was instructed to discreetly take the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the view to possibly taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla's safe. It was pointed out that any activities pursued by the State's Attorney should be handled in a most secret fashion in order to avoid any publicity with respect to Tesla's inventions. The New York Office was also instructed to contact the Surrogate Court in order that stops could be placed against the effects of Tesla both in his hotel and any other points, in particular, the safety deposit boxes that he may have in order that no one may enter them without a Bureau representative being present and every precaution taken to preserve the secrecy of Tesla's inventions. The New York Office is to keep the Bureau advised of all developments.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd

L. M. C. Smith is handling this with Alien Property Custodian so there appears to be no need for us to mess around in it.



100-2237-3X April 22, 1948

RECORDED

65-47953-18

INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

Mr. Charles A. Swain
3921 North 21st Street
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Swain:

Your letter of April 16, 1948, has been received and I want to express my appreciation to you for having written me as you did. The effects of Nickola Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. It is suggested you may desire to communicate with the Office of Alien Property, United States Department of Justice, 101 Indiana Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: This individual requests information relative to the work of Nickola Tesla relative to electrical experiments he was conducting, which Swain understands were taken by this Bureau and held for security reasons. Bureau file 65-47953 reflects that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property.

VWP:jec.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 8
★ APR 23 1948 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6 MAY 10 1948 344

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Tele. Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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APR 22 1948

3921 N 21 St.
Milwaukee 6, Wis.
April 16, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 JRM/ptc

Mr. J. E. Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am a student at the Milwaukee
School of Engineering, studying Electrical
Engineering. I am also interested in the life
and work of ^{NICKOLA} ^{TESLA} Nikola Tesla. I understand
that at the time of his death, your department
took his manuscripts and experiment data for
national security. I am preparing a paper
to be presented before the student branch of the
American Institute of Electrical Engineers on
Tesla. Charles A. Swenson

If it is possible, I would appreciate
material bearing on Tesla's ^{thoughts} and methods of experiment.

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&
INDEXED

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100-2237-3X

65-49955-16

13 APR 28 1948

H.A. #199

(H) 100-2237-3X

TESLA

NICKOLA

ack'd 4-22-48
mug
mme

This information would help me in a better presentation of this paper and consequently a far greater appreciation of his work in the field of science.

I know that a part of his experiments and theory have a secret classification, and I do not expect any of it.

I am interested in "Ground Current Transmission" as the basis of my thesis for graduation. If it is possible to obtain this information, I would be very grateful.

Yours very truly,

Charles A. Swain.

April 3, 1950

gm
His Excellency
The Ambassador of the Federal
People's Republic of Yugoslavia
1520 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Reference is made to your inquiry by telephone
on March 29, 1950, concerning certain technical papers which
belonged to the late Nikola Tesla.

From an examination of our files, we have been
able to determine that this Bureau has never been in possession,
as had been indicated to you, of a copy of Dr. Tesla's papers.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

PJC:mes

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APR 7 1950
80

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APR 3 5 19 PM '50
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 4 11 20 AM '50
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- Tolson
- Ladd
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Tele. Room
- Nease
- Gandy

APR 1 1950
MAILED 4
APR 4 1950
COMM - FBI

Director, FBI
SAC, New York

April 17, 1950

SAVA N. KOSANOVIC
INTERNAL SECURITY-YU
(Bufile 65-47953)

Rebulet dated April 3 last.

On April 7, 1950 agents of this office interviewed Mr. J.V. POTTS, Vice President of the Manhattan Warehouse and Storage Company, 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City, and at that time MR. POTTS advised that the rules of his firm required that all persons gaining access to goods stored by Manhattan first had to fill out an appropriate form setting forth their names, date of visit, and reason for requesting access to the goods.

In a review of the file pertaining to the storage of the effects of NIKOLA TESLA, MR. POTTS revealed that only one such visit had been made by persons outside of the management of Manhattan Storage itself. This one occasion took place on January 26 and 27, 1943, at which time representatives of the Alien Property Custodian made a thorough review of the entire effects of the TESLA estate.

NIKOLA TESLA

The TESLA effects are stored in rooms 5J and 5L of Manhattan Storage's warehouse at 52nd Street & 7th Avenue, New York City. MR. MICHAEL KING, who stated he had been Floor Supervisor for approximately 10 years on the floor in question, stated that he could recall only the one occasion in early 1943 when an examination was made of the TESLA effects. He stated that at that time numerous photographs were taken by the examiners. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of some of the papers of the deceased scientist. MR. KING added that several of the group making the examination wore U.S. Navy uniforms, and during the two days required to complete the examination the civilian assistants in the group were identified to him only as "FEDERAL AUTHORITIES". According to MR. KING, no other instance of microfilming of the records of the TESLA estate has taken place since that time.

It should be noted that the Bureau was informed of the examination mentioned above by New York letter (with attachments) dated October 17, 1945, entitled UNKNOWN SUBJECT; SAVA KOSANOVICH; Experiments & Research of NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased), Espionage-M.

cc: 65-12290

BRH:JJC
105-1391

51 APR 24 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 JRM/rtc

100-2237-
NOT RECORDED
148 APR 24 1950

ORIGINAL FILED IN 65-47953-27

Letter to Director, FBI
NY 105-1391

MR. POTTS stated that no inquiry had been received by Manhattan from SAVA N. KOSANOVICH, nor had Manhattan informed him, in any way, that an examination of the TESLA effects had been made by anyone. In fact, added MR. POTTS, the only correspondence relating to the TESLA estate has been in the form of bills for storage.

MR. POTTS stated that any personal inquiries regarding the estate would of necessity be directed to him, and to date no such inquiries have been made.

Interviewing agents explained to MR. POTTS that the examination made, as mentioned above, was not instigated by the Bureau, nor had the Bureau taken part in that examination.

Unless advised to the contrary, this investigation is being placed in a closed status, and no further investigative action is contemplated by this office. CLOSED.

*N.R. Files
Curry
min
2/22/52
per Dunder*

127 Seymour Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
August 18, 1952

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Records
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Gentlemen:

In a manner of introduction, I wish to state that I am working toward a degree in Electrical Engineering at the Institute of Technology of the University of Minnesota.

For several years, I have been engaged in a study of extensive compass and detail concerning the researches and writings of the late, world renowned scientist, Dr. Nikola Tesla. At considerable expense, I have acquired an extensive collection of materials relating to Dr. Tesla and his works which include:

- 1) Personal letters written by Tesla to his close friend.
- 2) Numerous periodicals, some of which are to be found in only a few libraries throughout the United States.
- 3) A few rare books which have now become "collector's items".
- 4) A collection of issued patents.

Although the items listed are considerable in number, the specific information desired is lacking.

As I understand it, because of the nature of Dr. Tesla's role in scientific developments, all research papers, patent applications, etc., were secured by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the time of Dr. Tesla's death in January of 1943.

The purpose of this seizure, as described in numerous articles, was to determine whether these papers contained suggestions leading toward advancements in the field of science.

RECORDED - 68

100-2237-4
SEP. 2 1952

Reply
8-26-52
RL

en-28

Chatterbox
CRIMINAL

Now it seems that sufficient time has elapsed for an investigation of this kind. If Dr. Tesla's Estate has been released by the department in charge, any records that can be made available for examination will be welcomed.

A letter from Harold I. Baynton, Assistant Attorney General, Director, Office of Alien Property, informed me that the Library of Congress listed certain works, writings and research studies prepared by the late Dr. Tesla. However, a letter addressed to the Library failed to bring results as the Library "has no files on the researches of Tesla".

A similar result was obtained from the Bureau of Naval Research and the Department of Commerce.

I am especially interested in the research work in which Tesla was engaged in his later years. There are various unpublished works, such as a 10-page typewritten statement presented in 1937 at a meeting of several well-known editors outlining his discoveries and giving a resume' of his work in the fields of gravity and cosmic ray research, etc. Also, Tesla prepared various papers, one of which was in effort to secure the Pierre Gutzman Prize from the Institute of France. My inquiry is in effort to determine whether any of these documents, as well as others, are at this time available.

I will greatly appreciate any information in regard to any records which you may have.

Very truly yours,

Leland I. Anderson
Leland I. Anderson

August 26, 1952

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jmf/ete

EX - 28
INDEXED 68
RECORDED - 68

Mr. Leland X Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue, S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota
100-2237-4
Dear Mr. Anderson:

With reference to your letter of August 18, 1952, our files disclose that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody at the time of his death by the Office of Alien Property, and not by this Bureau. Consequently, you may wish to communicate further with that agency, which may be addressed as follows: (65-47953)

Assistant Attorney General
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
John Edgar Hoover
Director

JUN 26 6 07 PM '52
RECEIVED READING ROOM
FBI

cc - 1 - Assistant Attorney General (with copy of incoming)
Rowland F. Kirks
Director, Office of Alien Property
United States Department of Justice
101 Indiana Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

MAILED 10
AUG 27 1952
COMM - FBI

PJC:aww

100-2237

NOTE: No reference Bureau files on correspondent in Minnesota.. 8-22-52...per Fender

SEP 10 1952

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT

DATE: May 5, 1953

FROM : MR. L. L. LAUGHLIN

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
INFORMATION CONCERNINGALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

Tolson	_____
Ladd	_____
Nichols	_____
Belmont	_____
Clegg	_____
Glavin	_____
Harbo	_____
Rosen	_____
Tracy	_____
Gearty	_____
Mohr	_____
Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holloman	_____
Sizoo	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

A Mr. D. H. Bryan, Ordnance Section of the Bureau of Standards (Em 2-4040, extension 623) called on the afternoon of May 4, 1953.

Bryan stated that he had been reading a book entitled, "The Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" by John J. O'Neill, whom Bryan described as a science writer for a New York newspaper (publisher - Ives Washburn). Bryan noted in this book that Bureau Agents went to Tesla's room following his death on January 7, 1943, opened his safe, examined his papers, and took over his personal files. Bryan said this appeared on page 277. Mr. Bryan stated that Tesla is the father of modern power engineering, being responsible for the invention of the A. C. generator, motor transmission, and other electrical engineering feats. He inquired (1) if the papers and works of Tesla were in the possession of the Bureau, and (2) if so, were they available for review in view of their scientific importance.

I told Mr. Bryan that the statement concerning the Bureau's taking Tesla's files did not seem very logical but that I would check on the matter.

The Bureau's files reflect that shortly after the death of Tesla in his hotel room in New York City on January 7, 1943, Sava Kosanovich, a distant relative, and other individuals entered his room and opened the safe, examining certain materials which he possessed. On January 8, 1943, Mr. L. M. C. Smith of the Department advised Mr. Tamm that he was concerned about the possibility of enemy agents confiscating some of the trunks of Tesla and apparently the Office of Alien Property Custodian was taking some action regarding these effects. Since the matter was being handled by the Office of Alien Property Custodian, the Bureau did not make any inquiries into this situation. (65-47953-6)

It is noted also that the Bureau received a letter dated April 16, 1948, from Mr. Charles A. Swain of 3921 North 21st Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, explaining that he was studying electrical engineering at the Milwaukee School of Engineering and

LLL:mer

65-47953

RECORDED-86

INDEXED-95 13 MAY 8 1953

1 - Mr. Nichols

was interested in the life and works of Tesla. Swain stated that he understood at the time of Tesla's death the Bureau took his manuscripts and experiment data for national security. The Bureau on April 22, 1948, advised Swain that the effects of Tesla were handled by the Office of Alien Property and not by the FBI. (65-47953-18)

I called Mr. Bryan this morning and told him that it was the office of Alien Property and not the FBI which took over the effects of Tesla following his death. Accordingly, I suggested that Mr. Bryan might wish to communicate with the office of Alien Property for further information concerning this matter.

The book "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla" is not in the Bureau Library. A copy is being obtained from the Library of Congress. It will be examined to determine specifically the reference made to the Bureau's taking these papers. At that time a determination can be made as to what further action should be taken.

ADDENDUM: LLL:mer 5-14-53

Page 277 of the "Prodigal Genius - The Life of Nikola Tesla," describing Tesla's death, contains the following statement: "Operatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation came and opened the safe in his room and took the papers it contained, to examine them for a reported important secret invention of possible use in the war."

Since this work was published in 1944, it is not felt that any particular purpose would be served by raising an objection with the publishers at this time. Bryan, the individual who raised the question, has been set straight and, therefore, no further action is being taken.

ABJ

44 4
3 3

4-22

Subj: Tesla, Nikola

Address: _____

Birthdate: ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED SUPV: EDMisc: DATE 11-1-82 BY SPINNY/MBER# _____ Date 3/2 Searcher Initial 849all refs. FILE NUMBER SERIAL

/	100 - 2237	
/	65-47953	
/	62-47649-1	
/	65-40979-690, 307	
/	65-47953-25, 14 p 1; 3	
/	65-30311-237	
/	65-57367-76 p 10	
/	65-47953-21X, 27	
/	65-58528-183	
/	94-3-4-115-17	
/	94-36511-78 enc p 6	
/	97-724-158 p 18, 175	
		1

4-22

Subj: Tesla, Nikola

Address: _____

Birthdate: INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-19-82 BY [signature]

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 3/2 Searcher Initial 849

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

/	100-10123-144 encl 298,
	124
/	100-27592-26
/	100-38280-969, 461 p 5
/	100-56674-116 8 encl 30,
	109.6 p 30
/	100-356557-99 p 15, 16
	Nikolas (varia)
	100-348245-1
	Nikola (varia)
	61-120-39
	61-57-546

2

4-22

Subj: Tesla, Nikola

Address: _____

Birthdate: INFORMATION CONTAINED SUPV: _____Misc: DATE 1-14-82 BASED ON MAXIMOR# _____ Date 3/2 Searcher Initial 849FILE NUMBERSERIAL71.65-47953-14 p11Nicola (varia)62-23011-1665-40979-55065-47953-1, 6100-32820-285100-56674-42100-118061-47100-346930-19Nicholas (varia)62-1077-4803

4-22

Subj: Tesla, Nikola

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

R# _____ Date 3/2 Searcher Initial 849

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Nick Warren

65-47953-4

one

approx 15 refs not listed

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-17-88 BY SP5SKM/RE

HV

47

4-22

Subj: Lunderson, Leland I

Address: _____

Birthdate: _____ SUPV: _____

Misc: _____

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all refs
LTL min.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

100-2237-4

Leland

MR

L. I.

MR

one

approx 800 ser not searched

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

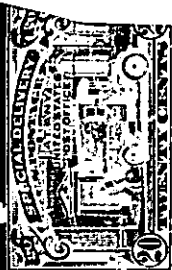
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/11/82 BY SPH/SK/MR

5

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

SPECIAL DELIVERY



**VIA AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY**

Mr. George Scherff
149 Seacord Road
New Rochelle, New York

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

REGISTERED

36443

Advise correspondents or
publishers of your
correct address

Supplied by Post Office at

White Plains, N. Y.

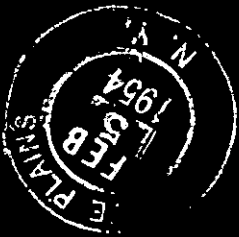
VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
149 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK

New Rochelle, N.Y.



Ann Arbor



TESLA-INTERNATIONAL

University Station, Box 135
MINNEAPOLIS · 14 · MINNESOTA

To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of
DR. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of January, 1943, Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York Herald-Tribune, presented the biography

PRODIGAL GENIUS The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography learned of Nikola Tesla for the first time, despite his monumental achievements with which he has won world-wide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the fields of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story not generally known of the brilliant genius Tesla whose sensitive personality and seclusion kept his fame in a shadow.

The TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of Dr. Nikola Tesla by those sharing a mutual interest in his life and works. The organization has as its objective the promulgation of the truth about Nikola Tesla; that a full recognition be made for his unparalleled research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and high potential, and for his achievements in the realms of polyphase power transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to do all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the nation the fame deserving of a truly great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization was issued beginning the month of November, 1953. In addition to items of recent and historical interest related to Tesla, the journal will include:

- 1) A formal roster of all those who have an interest in the Tesla organization and wish to engage in its activities.
- 2) An opportunity of editorial exchange by members of the organization through the medium of the journal.
- 3) A comprehensive bibliographical listing of all available items concerning Tesla, which would include a cataloging of the various collections of Tesliana not generally known. Such a listing will be of particular importance to scholars in the research field.
- 4) A presentation of hitherto unpublished writings and analyses of Tesla's technical research studies as they become available.

The journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of 1½ - 2 months. Subscription rate is \$1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the journal.

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.
149 Seacord Road
Westchester, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re.: The Life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and, the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

Leland I. Anderson

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Scherff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name becomes a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a mutual interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are; Muriel Arbus, Dorothy Skerritt, Kenneth Swezey and W. W. Wilhelm. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstien had a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Tesliana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstien. This woman was afraid of disclosing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would rudely be raided by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to her that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "Death-Ray" rumors, played up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a Siamese prince no less, and moved to some mid-western city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill intimated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hope that before too long all collections of Tesliana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of Walter R. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.

Leland I. Anderson
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

-2-

James W. McChesney of Long Island. The period of this correspondence runs from 1894-1930. Mrs. McChesney has another group of correspondence between Tesla and George Sylvester Viereck which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. (If you wish to receive any photostatic copies from these collections I will be happy to send them to you.)

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementoes, correspondence, writings, etc. of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of February, 1904. It came in a large square envelope bearing a large red wax seal with the initials "N.T." stamped thereon. Quite a number of them were distributed throughout New York and elsewhere by the Tesla enterprise in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have hopes that in 1956 (The Tesla Centenary) some significant observance may be organized here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla inheritance, which amounts to 9 tons of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenary. I don't know what sort of political propaganda might be injected in this publication, but it occurred to me that it may be appropriate to arrange an advance publication in this country of Tesla's unpublished works. Unfortunately, there is not much to work on as yet. While the Tesla estate remained in this country, photostats of nearly every important paper in the estate were made under order of Wright Field Development Center in Ohio. If these photostats could be located there would be much material for a publication. However, in working with the Library of Congress in preparation of a file on Tesla, these photostats have escaped the most extensive search thus far.

Hoping that you may be interested in the efforts of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with it, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson

TESLA-INTERNATIONAL

University Station, Box 135
MINNEAPOLIS · 14 · MINNESOTA

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To: Members of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization
and those interested in the works of
Dr. Nikola Tesla

RARE EDITION REPRINTED

"The Inventions, Researches and Writings of Nikola Tesla"

by

Thomas Commerford Martin

Through special arrangement, it is with great pleasure that the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization announces the reprinting of this classic of technical literature.

Long recognized as the most important and significant work on the early researches of Tesla, a great demand for this book is anticipated. THIS REPRINTED EDITION IS STRICTLY LIMITED! This special offer will not be repeated when the supply is exhausted. Those desiring a copy of the book are therefore urged to reply promptly.

Cost of this book at the special printing rate is only \$4.00 post-paid anywhere within the United States to members and friends of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
 FROM : SAC, New York (62-0)
 SUBJECT: LELAND I. ANDERSON
 MISCELLANEOUS

DATE: 2/19/54

INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

Mr. GEORGE H. SCHERFF, JR., 149 Seagord Road, New Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from LELAND I. ANDERSON, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostatic copies of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he was an associate of Dr. NIKOLA TESLA in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. TESLA'S private secretary. Mr. SCHERFF said that he never heard of LELAND I. ANDERSON nor did he ever hear of any of the names mentioned in ANDERSON'S letters.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he has quite a bit of Dr. TESLA'S writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they would be of value to a foreign government.

Mr. SCHERFF is an Engineer with Consolidated Edison in New York. He stated the letters sounded "fishy" to him and he thought they should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities in the U.S. Government.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that if there was anything wrong with the Tesla-International he would be willing to cooperate with the FBI.

No further action is being taken by the N.Y. Office, UACB.

Encs. (29)
 1 - Minneapolis (Encs.)

EXP. PROC.

ENCLOSURE

ENC

memo: New York

ETB: aas

3-10-54

RECORDED - 15

INDEXED - 15

RLS:CMH

FBI - NEW YORK
 REC'D 3/1/54

100-2237-4X1

105-4973

MAR 11 1954

9 3 11

NO ACTION
 RECORDED
 INDEXED

FIVE
 MAR 15 1954

WB TOWNE

Birch

SAC, New York

March 10, 1954

RECORDED
15

~~105-0-4973~~
Director, FBI

100-2237-4X1

LELAND I. ANDERSON

MISCELLANEOUS; INTERNAL SECURITY - YU

Reurlet 2-19-54^{at} concerning the above-captioned individual.
Relet forwarded to the Bureau two Photostats of two letters from Anderson
which were received and made available to your office by George H.
Scherff, Jr.

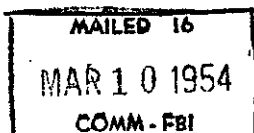
There is returned herewith one set of the Photostats received
by the Bureau as enclosures with your letter inasmuch as it appears
this set was intended for retention in your office file.

Attachment

ETB:aas

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

son _____
dd _____
hols _____
mont _____
egg _____
lavin _____
arbo _____
osen _____
Tracy _____
Gandy _____
Moir _____
Winterrowd _____
e. Room _____
loman _____
s Gandy _____



KENNETH M. SWEZEY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Back in 1943, the local Alien Property Custodian searched through the belongings of the late electrical inventor, Nikola Tesla, stored in the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in New York City. Tesla had been a naturalized American for more than fifty years, so I believe that the search was made on the grounds that the property was to be sent to Yugoslavia, through Tesla's nephew and heir, Mr. Sava Kosanović (Mr. Kosanović had been Minister of State under the King's government, later became Ambassador to the United States from the present government, and is now a Minister serving in Belgrade).

According to the attorney who handled the Tesla estate, Mr. Philip Wittenberg, the Alien Property Custodian assured him that nothing had been held. I have a letter from the Office of Alien Property, dated March 15, 1955, which confirms this statement.

In gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birthday next year---which will be participated in by leading scientific and engineering societies, museums, and universities---I have just discovered, however, that Tesla's solid gold Edison Medal somehow vanished during that search.

As a friend who had known Tesla well during his last twenty years, I was with Mr. Kosanović in Tesla's room in the Hotel New Yorker on the day he died. A safe expert was called in to unlock Tesla's safe. Among its contents were several honorary degrees, a volume of greetings which I had gathered for him on his seventy-fifth birthday, a bunch of keys, and the Edison Medal. We kept out the book of greetings (I mentioned this at the time to the assistant manager of the hotel and later to a Mr. Gorsuch of the Alien Property Custodian's office), but everything else, including the medal and the keys, was replaced and the safe was locked.

Except when it was inspected by the Alien Property Custodian, the safe was never reopened until it

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Sizoo
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, N.Y.
June 25, 1955

65-47953-1

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

RECORDED - 82 / 100-22375
INDEXED - 82

EXP-PROC

JUN-27-1955

65 JUL 11 1955

arrived in Belgrade (where Tesla's property was to be installed in a special Tesla Museum) and was there opened by Mr. Kosanović. According to his former secretary, both the bunch of keys and the medal were missing. The keys were later found in a tin box outside the safe; the medal was never found.

I learned of the disappearance of the medal only by accident. Mr. Kosanović had asked his former secretary to get permission from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (who gave Tesla the Medal) to have it duplicated. This was given, but the cost, it turned out, would be about four hundred dollars. In the meantime, the Tesla Museum, in Yugoslavia, is quietly trying to raise the money to pay for it.

The irony of this situation is more disturbing than the money involved. By giving us a system which made electric power universally available, Tesla---probably more than any other one man---helped put America on top of the world. At the time he died, his gold Edison Medal was the only material evidence left of this country's appreciation. That this last token should have disappeared ---to have to be replaced by his materially poor countrymen overseas for whom he had done nothing---seems a tragic denouement.

JOHN J. O'NEILL

by Alfred H. Sinks

"The Prodigal Genius"

John O'Neill, in his biography of Tesla, states that the FBI broke into Tesla's safe on the day he died, and an article in the current (June) Coronet repeats this. I know this isn't true. I did hear, however, that the FBI somehow lent a hand to the Alien Property Custodian during the latter's search in the warehouse.

If that is so, I thought that perhaps some of your men might remember the conditions under which the search was made and therefore might have a suggestion as to what could have happened to the medal. After this long time, I have no hope that the medal can actually be restored, and I am already trying to interest Americans in making a replacement. But future biographers might be spared a lot of wild guessing and wrong blaming if some hint could be obtained as to whether the original got lost, strayed, or stolen---and who might have been responsible.

With best regards and sincere appreciation for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Swezey

Kenneth M. Swezey

P.S.: I am enclosing an editorial from last month's POWER magazine which outlines Tesla's contribution to the electric power industry.

K.M.S.

Strange Genius

ASK ANY GROUP of power men to name those who laid the foundation for today's electrical generation and distribution. You'll wind up with an impressive list—Edison, Brush, Thomson, Westinghouse, many others. But there is almost sure to be a significant omission.

Yet this forgotten man conceived the polyphase ac motor—still basic—and devised a suitable system of generation and distribution for applying it. To grasp the magnitude of this contribution, we must turn back to the 1880's when the electrical era was being born, and the "battle of the systems" held sway.

Arc lights and motors were being operated on constant-current series systems. Edison's Pearl Street generating station had opened in 1882, supplying incandescent lamps and, later, dc motors on a constant-potential system. Under the leadership of Westinghouse and Stanley, the advantages of ac distribution were demonstrated. But there was no successful ac motor.

In May, 1888, a young Yugo-Slav engineer, but four years in the United States, read a paper before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. In it he described a new ac system. Its heart was the induction motor with its basic and beautiful concept of the rotating magnetic field. The man was Nikola Tesla, the system he described was destined to sweep the field.

With characteristic vision, George Westinghouse realized the fundamental importance of the polyphase ac system and acquired the basic patents. Its first impact on the general public was at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. There a 2-phase generator supplied motors and lamps, and, through rotary converters and motor-generators, a variety of dc equipment.

But it remained for the Niagara Falls power project to demonstrate in the most dramatic way possible that polyphase ac was the system of the future. Since 1886 when a charter to develop its power had been granted, the eyes of the world had been on Niagara. An international commission, headed by Lord Kelvin, had reviewed 17 proposals, found none acceptable. Later, just five years after Tesla's AIEE paper, it was officially decided to use the polyphase system.

In August, 1895, Niagara power was delivered to the first industrial customer and in 1896 ac transmission to Buffalo, 22 miles away, was begun. By that time, the steam turbine had been introduced in America and the modern age of electric power had truly opened.

For Nikola Tesla, these far-reaching inventions were but a beginning. Still to come was brilliant work in high frequencies, thinking basic to much of today's radio art. Yet by the time of his death in 1943, both he and his work had begun to slip into obscurity. Why?

A man of flashing insights and enormous brilliance, Tesla was largely indifferent to the development of his ideas. This he left to others while he followed the lure of new challenges. In later years, his projects became more grandiose, his ways more mysterious, his pronouncements more Olympian. And working alone, as he did, he formed none of the institutional ties that help to perpetuate a record of accomplishment.

Next year—July 10, 1956—will be the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth. It would be fitting for our engineering societies to commemorate this occasion, to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better.

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DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

SNF Opens Drive for Tesla Memorial at Libertyville

\$2000 PUBLIC AID SOUGHT

PITTSBURGH, PA. — The Serb Nat'l Federation Executive Board has acted quickly to implement a Convention decision to honor the memory of the illustrious Dr. Nikola Tesla.

At its first meeting, of October 8, the Board drafted a resolution calling on all SNF members and good Serbians to help finance a memorial project for the late scientist-inventor genius.

This would stand before the entrance of the Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

Cost of the contemplated project, which would clarify to the world that Dr. Tesla was a Serbian, is estimated at \$3000. The Convention voted \$1000 to the cause and a hand collection among 122 delegates yielded several hundred dollars more.

Kinsman Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., gave \$200.

Public Aid Sought

Balance of the needed sum is now being sought thru good-will offerings of the general Serbian populace in the United States and Canada.

A fund, similar to the one being conducted to help defray mortgage expenses on Shadeland, has been established.

It is hoped to raise the neces-

sary monies and complete the project in time for the world-wide Centennial celebration for the genius next year.

Spearheading the movement for recognition, especially among American elements, is the TESLA SOCIETY, founded by scientist-engineer Leland Anderson, a fanatical admirer of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Mr. Anderson right now is conducting a search for a famous portrait of the Serbian electrical wizard done at the turn of the century in New York.

Seek Missing Portrait

In his current TESLAIAN publication, Mr. Anderson revealed the work, by Princess Vilma Lwoff-Parlaghy, is missing.

Reviewing developments, Mr. Anderson wrote:

"On March 1, 1916, the Princess gave a reception in her new studio in New York especially to exhibit her latest portrait of Nikola Tesla. An article in the NEW YORK TIMES for March 2, 1916, stated—

"It was one of the beliefs of Mr. Tesla that there was something unlucky about posing for a picture and he never sat to any before he entered the studio of the Princess. The room which she had chosen did not have a sky-

light in it and the much desired North exposure was missing.

"At the suggestion of Mr. Tesla, a cluster of powerful incandescents was put up in the corner of the apartment and the rays, filtered thru blue glass, were just the right quality. The portrait was shown under the same illumination.

At Ease for Sitting

"Mr. Tesla, having solved the problem of the artificial sun, fell to thinking about other parts of the universe, and there he sat oblivious to his surroundings.

"The painter was able to produce a likeness in which there is no evidence that the subject was conscious that anybody was watching him, much less studying his features from the other side of the easel.

"Among those who attended the reception were Mrs. C. B. Alexander, Henry P. Davison, the Countess de Rittenburg and Mrs. E. T. Isham."

After the Princess died, in 1923, her studio and all objects of art, was sold at auction.

The Tesla portrait, 53x48 inches, appeared on the cover of TIME magazine (July 20, 1931) and in the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER (January 1919), Mr. Anderson says.

Its location is not now known.

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126 NOV 4 1955

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
October 26, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EX-121

279
68 NOV 9 - 1955

100-2237

СРБОБРАН

АМЕРИКАНСКИ

THE AMERICAN SRBOBRAN

Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at Pittsburgh, Pa.

THE LARGEST AND OLDEST SERBIAN DAILY NEWSPAPER IN AMERICA

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MOMCHILO SOKICH, Editor — JOVAN BRATICH, Ass't. Editor
MILAN M. KARLO, Editor English Section

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Рукописи се не враћају никоме. — Огласи се плаћају унапред.

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

Largely thru a young American engineer's efforts, the world today is re-scanning the record and achievements of our inventive genius, Nikola Tesla. Of late, even the big-time magazines have devoted space to the amazing career and fascinating character of the pioneering electrical wizard.

The man behind this belated recognition for the one-time Serbian immigrant boy who made millions but died almost a pauper is Leland P. Anderson, head of the Tesla Society, which has headquarters at the University of Minnesota.

Thru travels, correspondence and detailed research, Mr. Anderson has dug up many friends of the late genius and induced them to join in his noble work. A good many of these are American-Serbians. They serve Mr. Anderson and he serves them, with information issued thru his TESLIAN publication. This is, at present, a mimeographed publication issued monthly which casts new light on the known life and record of the late Dr. Tesla.

The latest issue (March-June) informs of progress plans to honor Dr. Tesla even more. It also presents an account of a fascinating editorial, "Strange Genius", by the POWER magazine of the powerful McGraw-Hill publishing line. This editorial traces the introduction of Dr. Tesla's polyphase system, described by Mr. Anderson, as the "most tremendous event in all engineering history."

Editorialist Louis N. Bowler, according to the TESLIAN, answers the perplexing question why, in view of Tesla's important discoveries, he fell short of the comparative popularity won by Edison and Bell. Then in closing, he suggests: "It would be fitting for our engineering societies, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth (July 10, 1856), to acknowledge our debt to this strange and lonely genius who changed our world for the better."

This appears to be just what Mr. Anderson was waiting for. For now, in the same issue of his TESLIAN, he has prepared a form to petition Postmaster General Arthur E. Sumnerfield to issue a Tesla commemorative stamp next year.

We are printing this form in duplicate in this issue and

urge our readers to endorse it with their signatures. Send

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BY SP4 Jrm/pte

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100-2232-1

NOT RECORDED

138 JUL 11 1955

AMERICAN SRBOBRAN
JUL 29, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

file 5E13

0-2237

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : L. V. BOARDMAN *AB*

DATE: June 29, 1955

FROM : A. H. BELMONT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA
MISCELLANEOUS - INFORMATION CONCERNING (ESPIONAGE)

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

AWK

Nikola Tesla, a native of Yugoslavia, was a famous electrical inventor who died in New York City in 1943 where he had lived for many years. In attached letter to Bureau dated 6-25-55 Kenneth M. Swezey, Brooklyn, New York, advises he is gathering material to help in a nation-wide commemoration of Tesla's hundredth birth anniversary in 1956. Swezey relates he was present when Tesla's safe was opened by friends after his death and advises the contents were thereafter replaced and then impounded by the United States Alien Property Custodian. Later the safe was removed to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to be installed in a Tesla Museum. Missing from Tesla's effects is a gold Edison medal he had been awarded. Swezey is seeking to locate the medal and has been advised by the Office of Alien Property (OAP) that OAP held none of Tesla's property. Swezey states he has heard the FBI assisted OAP in handling Tesla's effects while in storage, and accordingly, he asks whether Bureau could assist him in locating the Edison medal. Re FBI's assistance to OAP Swezey mentions that in the Tesla biography ("The Prodigal Genius" - 1944) by John O'Neill it was stated FBI broke into Tesla's safe the day he died (1-8-43 to protect contents from enemy hands). Swezey notes this same comment appears in article ("The Genius Who Walked Alone") by Alfred H. Sinks in the June, 1955; "Coronet." Swezey says he knows FBI did not do this. Bufiles not pertinent re Swezey. Bureau did not enter into Tesla's safe matter upon Department's advice it was being handled by OAP. Bureau previously aware of comment in O'Neill's book. Per Bufiles Sinks was officer of American Civil Liberties Union in 1930-40; staff member of Communist line newspaper "The Anvil," 1933-37; member of League of American Writers (HCUA report 1944); close friend of Edward Conklin, reported CP member and suspected underground member - 1947. In 1945 Sinks requested for his use as author data re Bureau's microfilm procedure. Was advised no such data available for publication.

Enclosure *sent* 6-30-55

100-2237

cc - 1 - 65-47953

Ticklers - Mr. Bird

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Boardman

ETB:jaa
(5)

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EX-104

JUL 7 1955

65 JUL 11 1955 FBI - TORONTO
105

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 Room 1535

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☐ Subversive References
☐ Main References Only
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☐ Restrict to Locality of _____
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☒ Exact Name Only
☒ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

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Localities _____

Birthdate & Place _____

R# _____ Date 6-28 Searcher Initial jj
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I	257
I	277
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I	61-7582-1298, P# 568, 978
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I	62-7721-966
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☐ Main References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only
☐ Restrict to Locality of _____
☒ Breakdown ☒ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Exact Name Only
☒ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT SWEZEY, KENNETH M.
Address _____

Localities _____
Birthdate & Place _____

R# _____ Date 6-28 Searcher Initial h

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

One Bureau Library Card author
 of "Science Magic"
 Buildups
 MR

Kenneth

I 101-2237-3,

I 65-47953-1,

K. M.

MR

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 DATE 7-14-82 BY SP1056/NE

2

Memorandum For Mr. Boardman

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be sent to Swezey advising Bureau did not participate in the handling of Tesla's effects and that the matter was handled by OAP. Therefore, Bureau unable to be of assistance; that no action be taken relative to Sinks' comment in "Coronet" article.

✓ GMA
OAG
H
SE
WAB
EB

June 30, 1955

RA
RA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

(Original)

DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jrm/rtc

Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey
163 Milton Street
Brooklyn 22, New York

Dear Mr. Swezey:

With reference to your letter of June 25, 1955, our files disclose the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED - 26
INDEXED - 26

24 JUL 1 1955

NOTE:

A cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman was prepared by ETB:jaa on 6-29-55 in connection with this outgoing mail.

Bufiles contain no derogatory data re correspondent; reflect only that he was close friend and admirer of Tesla.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
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 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
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Gandy _____

64 JUL 8 1955

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and repaired
135 2/15/54

100-2237-6X1

~~65-47953-34~~

August 11, 1955

11-7740038

cc

cc EX-104

Mr. Gaston Burridge
10406 South Downey Avenue
Downey, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ptc

Dear Mr. Burridge:

Your letter dated August 1, 1955, ^{atb} has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMP
AUG 11 1955
MAILED 19

en

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Boardman
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Sizoo
- Mr. Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. This type of reply utilized by Internal Security Division in answering similar inquiries on 6/30/55. (65-47953-33) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Mr. Boardman dated 6/29/55 set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe mentioned was done by the Office of Alien Property.

JRH:sms

63 SEP 28 1955

AUG 18 1955

me *Jew's* *JRH*

Mail to
and keep
135 2/24/87

10406 S. Downey Ave.,
Downey, California.

August 1, 1955.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In his book, "Prodigal Genius", The Life of Nikola Tesla, Mr. John J O'Neil says, on page 277, that the F.B.I. went to Tesla's hotel room, opened his steel safe and removed from it, the papers it contained.

Was there ever any publication of what these papers contained? If so, could you inform me where I might obtain a copy of such publication?

If there was no publication of the Safe's content, after more than 12 years, would it be improper to publish them?

If there was no publication of the safe's content, but there were no particular secrets found there in, could you inform me where I might learn what the safe contained?

Any information on this matter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your trouble.

Sincerely,

Gaston Burridge
Gaston Burridge

Cal.

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DATE 7-2-88 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

EX-104

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ack 8-11-55

gjh

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INDEXED - 77

100-2237-6X1

65-47953-24

2 AUG 15 1955

Mail torn and repaired
3/24/89 135

10406 S. Downey Ave.,
Downey, California.

September 10., 1955.

Mr. John Edgar Hoover,
Federal Bureau Of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Referring to my letter to you August first, this year - your letter to me, August 11th., reletive to the matter of the papers of Mr. Nikola Tesla.

On August 26, I wrote the office of Alien Property regarding this matter, indicating that I had received the information from you that it was their department which had taken the Tesla Property into custody - not yours..

I have a letter from Mr. Henry G. Hilken - that Department - File Number HGH:N SM:elk 017-3566, in which I am told that office "never had custody, nor has vested, any property of Nikola Tesla".

As I began this matter with you - because it was stated in Mr. O'Neill's book that it was your department who opened Tesla's safe I am wondering if you have any further suggestions along lines I might follow to obtain some information in this regard?

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Sincerely,

Gaston BurrIDGE
Gaston BurrIDGE

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DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

EX-107
SEP 12 1955

RECORDED-12

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EX-107

SEP 15 1955
SEP 12 1955

CRIM. DIV.

REC'D - SEC

Mail torn and repaired 2/24/89
135

RECORDED
INDEXED-12

100-2237-6X2
65-47953-35

September 20, 1955

EX-107

Mr. Gaston Burrige
10406 South Downey Avenue
Downey, California

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rto

Dear Mr. Burrige:

I have received your letter dated September 10,
1955.

As you were advised by my letter of August 11,
1955, this Bureau was not connected in any respect with
the acquisition or custody of the effects of Nikola Tesla,
and it is therefore not possible to furnish you any
additional information.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: By letter 8-11-55, we referred Burrige to the Office of
Alien Property, which Office was reported to have
assumed custody of Tesla's effects subsequent to his death.
(65-47953-6)

JRH:vjs
(3)

SEP 20 2 18 PM '55

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - MAIL ROOM

COMM - FBI

SEP 28 1955

MAILED 30

THE FALLS \$1580

Half of \$3000 Costs For Statue Pledged

Cadiz, O., Serb Gives \$100 For Bust Image of Inventor To Be Placed at Monastery

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Half of the \$3000 fund goal for a statue memorial of the late Dr. Nikola Tesla has been realized, the SNF announced today.

In fact, total contributions counted so far come to \$1580.

The Fund is an outgrowth of a plea by Bishop Nikolai for Serbians to do honor for the memory of the noted electrical wizard during the world-wide Centennial celebration planned for the genius next year.

In the wake of the plea, voiced at the recent 7th Convention at Niagara Falls, Canada, the delegates approved a \$1000 gift from the SNF and decided to raise, by public grant, the balance of \$2000.

A hand collection among the 122 grass-roots leaders of the Society raised another \$450. Then, at its first meeting October 5, the newly-elected Executive Board of the SNF appealed to the membership at large to fulfill the balance required.

First Contribution \$100

A scant 24 hours after the appeal was published in the Society's "Srbobran" organ last Wednesday, Sime Zelich of Cadiz, O., gave \$100.

The proposed memorial, a statue image, would be placed before the entrance of the St. Sava Serbian Monastery in Libertyville, Ill.

"There it would proclaim to tens of thousands of Serbian visitors annually that Nikola Tesla was of Serbian immigrant stock and son of a Serbian Orthodox clergyman," Bishop Nikolai declared.

For half a century and more, the general American public has been misled as to the nationality of the man who foretold the coming of atomic energy power.

Only recently, a prominent American magazine listed him, incorrectly, as of Croatian stock. The mistake was subsequently publicly corrected with apologies by the publication.

But lacking an image reference with historical statistics, similar errors are likely in the future.

Old References Poor

The magazine publication, for instance, explained it obtained reference material from an antiquated guide book.

Since the misleading matter there was never challenged by Serbians and other interested parties before, the magazine logically assumed it was factual.

Erection of a bust statue, also listing Dr. Tesla's date of birth, birthplace, parents, etc., would counter the old guide and make certain that future

historians, writers, educators, scientists, etc., would not be misled, Bishop Nikolai believes.

Be that as it may, the SNF's goal is to amass the needed monies in time to erect and dedicate the memorial before the Tesla Centennial celebration ends.

Donors and the amounts of their donations are as follows:

SNF	\$ 1000.00
Delegate M. Konjevich	200.00
Todor Dragich	50.00
Petar Borovich	25.00
SNF Counsel N. Stone	25.00
Delegate N. Stepanovich	20.00
Maxim Jakovac	20.00
Ilija Janjanin	20.00
Lou Balta	10.00
Jovan Vukcevic	10.00
Milan Kajganovich	10.00
Stevan Rogulja	10.00
Bogdan Dragisich	5.00
Milan Tomich	5.00
Todor Vuicich	5.00
Djuro Lukich	5.00
G. Stoissavlievich	5.00
R. Vukadinovich	5.00
Janko Mrmich	5.00
Petar Maravich	5.00
Mirko Baranin	5.00
Stanko Jelich	5.00

Prof. Anthony Tomovich (Edmonton, Alberta, Can.)	10.00
Teta Andia Mamula (Pittsburgh)	5.00
Martha Mamula Bjelosh (Pittsburgh)	10.00
Sime Zelich (Cadiz, O.)	100.00
Milinko Alexich, war invalid (Omaha, Nebr.)	

Total \$ 1,580

—the honoring, forever, of two of Serbia's best-known immigrant sons who contributed so greatly to the welfare and prosperity of their adopted America.

We hope to report developments as soon as they take place, remembering Bishop Nikolai's concluding remarks:

"Nikola Tesla, in the field of science, brought the Serbian name great glory—just as did the greatest Serbian knights on the field of battle."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP2 JPK/STC

6 NOV 14 1980

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

At long last Serbians—American and Canadian—have acted to honor the memory and achievements of one of Serbia's greatest sons.

For the world-wide Centennial celebration of Dr. Nikola Tesla's birth next year, Serbs on this Continent plan to erect a bust statue of the electrical genius to stand before the entrance of the Monastery at Libertyville, Ill.

Steps looking towards that end were taken at the recent SNF convention following the reading of a letter by President Milo Radakovich from His Grace, Bishop Nicolai. As the universally-renowned churchman stated, erection of a suitable monument, by Serbians, would forever remind other Serbs of the honor and glory of Dr. Nikola Tesla. And that he was a SERBIAN, son of a SERBIAN ORTHODOX clergyman, born in the SERBIAN SELO of Smiljan in Lika.

Further, His Grace urged that the undertaking be a joint one and representative of ALL the Serbian organizations in the United States and Canada. He naturally looked to the SNF for leadership, and the greatest monetary contribution. But he also besought the help of the Serbian Nat'l Defense and the Jedinstvo beneficial society.

The Convention voted \$1000 for the project and a hand collection was taken up among the delegates and guests, kinsmen Milos Konjevich of Joliet, Ill., giving \$200. It is probable that the balance of the needed \$3000 will be raised thru public good-will offerings and via cash gifts of the other two organizations mentioned.

And after a suitable bust has been erected for Dr. Tesla, Bishop Nicolai suggested a similar-like monument honor the memory of Dr. Mihailo Pupin, also a world-renowned scientist, author and educator.

This is a subject near and dear to all good Serbian hearts.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ste

INDEXED - 36

100-2237-A
NOT RECORDED

126 OCT 5 1955

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"
September 28, 1955
Pittsburgh, Pa.

EX-113

7331
60 OCT 7 1955

file 5.88
100-2237

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

RECOGNITION FOR TESLA

(Please fill out this form and mail to the address appearing below.)

THE TESLA SOCIETY

University Station, Box 135
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

(date)

(city & state)

Hon. Arthur E. Summerfield
Postmaster General, Postoffice Dept.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Nikola Tesla's contributions to science, industry, and to his adopted country have greatly inspired engineering progress. His electrical systems helped create an American economy of world pre-eminence.

We respectfully request issuance of a 1956 commemorative stamp to be issued on the centennial of Tesla's birth (1856-1943).

(signed)

"AMERICAN SRBOBRAN"

June 29, 1955

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

EX - 106
INDEXED-59

100-2237-A
NOT RECORDED

138 JUL 11 1955

125
66 JUL 13 1955

files 585
100-2237

100-2237-A

NIKOLA TESLA

File 4 - B215/cml
100-2237-A 7-15-55

100-2237-A
NOT RECORDED
125 JUL 15 1955

93
JUL 15 1955



The Genius Who Walked Alone

by ALFRED H. SINKS

Nikola Tesla was a great inventor—
and also a prophet without honor

COUNTER-ESPIONAGE WHEELS started turning early on the morning of January 8, 1943. Anxious FBI agents slipped into a room in the Hotel New Yorker where, late the night before, a chambermaid had discovered the body of Nikola Tesla, dead at 86, regarded by many as the greatest scientific genius of his time.

For years, Tesla had been making scientific predictions so fantastic as to be literally out of this world. Of late he had been working—or so he said—on revolutionary new weapons powerful enough to annihilate armies at a single blow.

There was only one Tesla, and the story might—incredible as it sounded—be true. The old man's safe might hold these secrets, and

the Government could not risk the chance of enemy spies getting there first.

Half hoping to find something which would bring a sudden and decisive end to World War II, the G-men broke open the dead man's strong box. If anything of importance was discovered, it has never been revealed.

Yet, their quick action was justified, for you could never be sure about Tesla, one of the strangest men who ever lived. Most people took him with a grain of salt, yet no serious scientist dared shrug away his claims as nonsense. Not after Thomas Edison tried it and Tesla proved him wrong.

The world's leading physicists and electrical engineers had to eat crow back in the 1880s when Tesla solved a problem they had thought impossible. That one accomplishment—the invention of a practical alternating-current motor and gen-

erator—put Tesla's name among the world's top scientists.

From his invention sprang the industrial age we live in. For without his alternating current, there would be no mass production of automobiles, aircraft, refrigerators; no great water-power dams and generating plants, no Diesel-electric trains; we could not have developed radio, television or atomic power.

The direct current that Edison worked with—a feeble force at best—could be sent no more than a couple of miles over wires because its power leaked away rapidly into the surrounding atmosphere. Lights near the power station might burn brightly and steadily, but those near the end of the line would be dim and fluttering.

Tesla sold his basic alternating-current patents in 1888, for a million dollars down. By 1895, the first great power station at Niagara Falls had been built, and by the end of 1896, two more Tesla generators had been installed. Within a few years, the pace of life over half the earth had changed from a crawl to a fast gallop—and it has been gathering speed ever since.

THE MAN WHO, by his brilliant idea of a "rotating magnetic field," changed the face of the earth and the living habits of the human race was a Croat, born in 1857 in Smiljan, a village in what is now Yugoslavia, but was then part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When he was about six, Nikola Tesla's father, the village priest, was transferred to a larger parish in the city of Gospic. There, the lad grew up and perfected his earliest "inventions." Of these, his fa-

vorite was an "engine" powered by 16 June bugs, harnessed in sets of four to spokes which radiated from the drive shaft.

Nikola was a frail lad, often ill; and he nearly went blind from too much reading. He read everything he could get his hands on, not only science but also religion, philosophy, history, literature. By the time he finished high school, he was fluent in French, German and Italian, as well as his native Serbo-Croat.

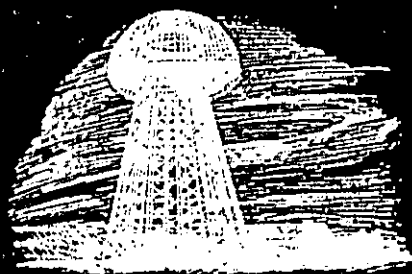
He got his schooling—the best his doting family could afford—at Gospic, Carlstadt, Gratz, the University of Prague and, finally, at Budapest. At the University, he saw his first electric motor, a new type direct-current affair whose brushes and commutators sent out showers of crackling blue sparks.

"If we got rid of those brushes and commutators, with all that noise and loss of energy, we'd have a much better motor," Nikola told his professor. "Perhaps it might be done with an alternating current."

"Nonsense!" barked the professor. "An alternating current would never run anything. You're not the brilliant student I thought you were. Forget it!"

But Tesla could not forget. The teacher's ridicule only stamped the idea indelibly on his brain. It became an obsession, a passion—how to make an alternating current drive a motor. In every idle moment, wherever he went, he wrestled with this problem.

Tesla's mind had an unusual twist. Almost from infancy, he had been able to see things in his mind's eye so vividly—and in such minute detail—that often he had trouble telling the real from the imaginary.



Where the average engineer or inventor would reach instinctively for drawing board, paper and pencil, Tesla would simply switch on that uncanny magic lantern inside his brain. He would fix a mental image there. Then he would alter this detail or that, discard one plan, try another, without ever putting a line on paper.

Years later—from these mental images alone—he could give his workmen exact instructions on how to build each part of a new device, though it was unlike anything ever seen before.

Thus, needing no drafting room and few laboratory conveniences to work on an idea, Tesla could use every spare minute that he had to test and revise his theory of alternating current.

His first real job was manager of a newly organized telephone company in Budapest. But telephone circuits were dull stuff compared with the challenge of that one big idea. He moved to Paris where he became a kind of general trouble-shooter for the Continental Edison Company.

His brain was still chipping away at his big problem, but the trouble was, he couldn't share it with untrained men who might have helped him work it out. For whenever he

mentioned alternating current to an electrical engineer, the man would look at him as though he were crazy.

But then came the moment when he knew he had solved it. He was walking with a friend in the Bois de Boulogne. Suddenly, he stopped short and began jabbing with his cane at some invisible object in the air.

"See—it works!" he shouted. "It is the rotating magnetic field which causes the armature to turn. It pulls the magnets around with it, causing the shaft to revolve. As I oscillate this switch, causing the current to flow first in one direction, then the other . . ."

Never mind what his friend thought. Tesla had the answer.

At the office, his colleagues scoffed or looked blank. But the manager, listening to the outpourings of scientific jargon, suddenly thought of his boss back in the United States. If there *were* some truth in what the Croat said, surely the famous electrical wizard would be smart enough to see it.

So he gave Tesla a letter of introduction to Thomas Edison and urged him to try his luck in America. Thus, Tesla, now 27, arrived in New York. He was handsome, over six-feet-two, with a distinguished head and deep-set blue eyes. His Slavic face was broad across the cheekbones, his dark hair thick, his chin sharply pointed. Of worldly goods, he had the clothes on his back, four cents in cash, the letter to Edison, and the idea which was to change the world.

Edison thought less than nothing of the idea. It seemed so preposterous that he wouldn't even listen

--and, of course, Tesla had no drawings with which to try to convince him. But Edison gave him a job, for he had excellent training as an engineer and Edison needed trained men.

Busy with routine electrical work, Tesla waited nearly three years for a chance to turn his mental image into an actual motor he could show to others. In 1887, he was able to borrow enough money to start his own laboratory, and the following year the alternating-current motor and generator were practical realities—on a laboratory scale—though much practical engineering would still be needed to fit them to commercial use.

George Westinghouse, another inventor, was the first to see their value. He bought the patents and gave Tesla a job as engineer in his Pittsburgh factory.

But Tesla couldn't get along with the other Westinghouse engineers. From his standpoint, the alternating-current job was done. Even "schoolboys" could now iron out the few remaining kinks. Meantime, his brain had started to hatch even bigger dreams. He went back to his laboratory in New York.

"Be alone—" he once told a science writer. "That's the secret of invention. Be alone—that's where great ideas are born."

A LONE HE WAS. In the years that followed, Tesla had many admiring acquaintances, but seldom a friend. After his mother, no woman ever entered his personal life.

His manner toward others was cordial but reserved, distant. His words were as if uttered by some god, sitting on an Olympus high

above the rest of humanity. Backed by his fame, those words made a tremendous impression.

He lectured at every scientific center in this country and in all the important capitals abroad. Things which, as yet, existed only inside that amazing brain of his were so real to him, he made them real to his listeners.

He described radar and radio broadcasting and even television. He advocated electro-therapy. He foresaw a day when man would control nature in every respect—even the weather—when machines of all kinds, and the power to run them, would be so cheap that poverty would vanish from the world.

Without wanting to be, Tesla was a superb actor. After listening to him and seeing his wonders, audiences were ready to believe nearly anything.

Tesla reasoned that you could sell electric power cheap if you could do away with the millions of poles and insulators, the millions of tons of copper wire used to transmit it from place to place. He thought he knew how to do it—and J. P. Morgan backed him with \$300,000.

On Long Island, Tesla built a huge power plant with a 154-foot steel-ribbed tower topped by an enormous mushroom-shaped copper dome. From this dome he planned to bombard the earth's crust with millions of volts of electric energy. The power so added to the earth's permanent charge could be drained off at some other point—any point—on the earth's surface. Thus, it would be possible for electric power to be sent anywhere without conduits, poles or wires. Or so he thought, until he tried it.

In November, 1898, Tesla announced that he could abolish war.

The inventor had designed a small, inexpensive, radio-controlled boat which, through its supposed ability to destroy the biggest battleships, would make great navies useless. Not many years later, he was talking of another super-weapon: a "death ray" which would annihilate whole armies.

Yet Tesla never suspected that the real super-weapon of the future would come from atomic fission. For Einstein's basic notion which led to smashing the atom, he had only ridicule. Alone in his middle age, he had fallen out of step with the world's great thinker.

Not all Tesla's later inventions were fantastic. Some, like his induction coils and oscillators, and pioneer work on "tuned" electrical circuits, were highly important.

Though he never succeeded in transmitting power without wires on a big scale, he did prove that a single wire is enough. And some of his brilliant prophecies inspired the more plodding scientists to work out the practical problems of induction heating, radio-telephone, radar and many other electronic marvels of today.

But as he grew older, he with-

drew further and further within himself. His strange prophecies sounded like a voice from another planet. For companionship now, the old man had only his dreams, and they grew stranger with the years. Completely alone at last, a stooped, gaunt figure with thin, silvery hair, he used to slip from his hotel room, buy a bag of birdseed and trudge slowly over to a park where hundreds of pigeons awaited him. These were his friends. They needed him, though the world did not.

When he grew too ill to go out, each day he sent a Western Union messenger to the park. After feeding the birds, the boy was instructed to see if any of them seemed sick. If so, he was to bring them back to Tesla's room where the inventor would nurse them gently back to health.

Perhaps this sad little labor of love showed that the man who changed the world had, at last, discovered a great truth. Perhaps he knew now that the greatest power for good lies not in lonely thought but in a human heart pulsating—like his own "tuned circuits"—in tune with the hearts of his fellow-men. Or did he ever know? You could never be sure about Tesla.

Winnie Wit

IN THE EARLY 1920s, when Winston Churchill had offended both his own supporters and the political opposition, the late George Bernard Shaw wrote him: "I enclose two vouchers for the première of my new play, for yourself and a friend—if any."

Back to the playwright promptly came the theater checks with this note from "Winnie": "I regret I am unable to attend the première of your new play. Please send me two vouchers for the second performance—if any."

—WICKLING in (Cleveland News)

100-2237-7

RECORDED - 86

INDEXED - 86

EX-122

15

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

June 29, 1956

Mr. Robert T. Blanks III
4226 Second Road North
Arlington 3, Virginia

D.C.

Dear Mr. Blanks:

Nikola Tesla

Your letter dated June 23, 1956, has been received, and in response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property and not by this Bureau.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Mr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

COMM - FBI
JUN 29 1956
MAILED 24

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent and reveal the correct spelling of Tesla's name as "Nikola." Bufiles reflect this type of reply has been utilized by the Domestic Intelligence Division in answering similar inquiries. (65-47953; 100-2237) Cover memo from Mr. Belmont to Boardman 6-29-55, set out background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

FBI

OLD MAIL ROOM

ELJ:jh:mmh
(3)

JUL 17 1956

- Tolson
- Boardman
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Harbo
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Sizoo
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Gandy

RECEIVED
JUN 29 3 14 PM '56
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

23 June 56

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

During my senior year at Georgetown University I read J.J.O'Neil's Biography of Nikola Tesla; the book, entitled "Prodigal Genius" described quite a few of Tesla's experiments, most of which I tried myself in the physics lab. I am interested in reviewing Tesla's experiments in wireless electric power transmission.

Unfortunately, Tesla died in 1945 just at the time he supposedly had developed a system of wireless power transmission. Since World War II was then in progress his papers were seized and sealed by the F.B.I. I suppose that by now Tesla's papers have been released for publication, but a call to the Library of Congress produced no results. Therefore, I have two questions:

- 1) Does the F.B.I. now have Tesla's scientific papers?
- 2) If so, are they available for public inspection?
If they were released, who has them?

I will certainly appreciate any help you can give me along these lines. Tesla published very little of his findings; this, coupled with the fact that wireless power is connected by most people with "Death Rays" and crack-pots has made it nearly impossible for me to find anything on the subject.

Yours very truly,
Robert T. Blanks, III
Robert T. Blanks, III

4226 Second Road North,
Arlington 3, Virginia

RECORDED - 86 100-2237-7
JUN 28 1956

JUL 3 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

ORIGINAL
FILED

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :

DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/25/57

FROM :

SAC, NEW YORK (65-12290)

SUBJECT:

NIKOLA TESLA (Deceased)
IS -YUALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rta

PETER SAVO, 132 West 78th Street, New York 24, New York, a United States citizen of Yugoslav extraction, who on occasion, voluntarily furnishes the New York Office with information he considers to be in the interests of the Security of the United States Government, furnished Special Agent NICHOLAS J. MASTROVICH the following information on July 3, 1957:

SAVO stated that a certain woman named Mrs. MARGARET STORM who lives with her husband, JOHN, at the Colonial Hotel, 51 West 81st Street, New York 24, New York, has been issuing newsletters which contain information pertaining to flying saucers and interplanetary matters.

SAVO stated that in his opinion Mr. and Mrs. STORM are exploiting the reputation and genius of NIKOLA TESLA, deceased, inventor of Yugoslav extraction who achieved world wide fame as a result of his inventions in the United States.

TESLA was born in Smiljan, Yugoslavia in July, 1859 and came to the United States in 1894 and became a naturalized United States citizen. In 1886 TESLA designed the arc-lighting system and two years later he invented the Tesla motor and designed a plan for the transmission of alternating current. In subsequent years, TESLA's discoveries and inventions included such fields and appliances as wireless communication, electrical oscillation, radiant power and radio active matter. After 1900, communications and wireless power transmission occupied most of his research.

- 2 - Bureau (RM) (Encs. 2)
1 - Los Angeles (Info) (Encl. 1) (RM)
1 - New York (65-12290)

NJM:mc
(4)

RECORDED-56

INDEXED - 56

14 JUL 29 1957

NY 65-12290

TESLA's only military invention was a method to which he once eluded but never fully described. This invention was a means whereby an impenetrable "wall of force" can be erected around the United States' borders which would render helpless any military attack. TESLA disclosed the existence of his plan in 1934 and stated he intended to present it to the Geneva Conference but seldom referred to it afterward.

The "New York Times" dated 9/22/40, carried an article setting forth NICOLA TESLA's plan for a "Death Ray". This article included information to the effect that TESLA, on his 84th birthday, July 10, 1940, advised New York Times reporter WILLIAM A. LAWRENCE that he was ready to divulge to the United States Government the secret of his "teleforce", with which he said airplane motors would be melted at a distance of 250 miles so that an invisible Chinese wall of defense would be built around the country against any attempted attack by an enemy airforce no matter how large. According to TESLA, this "teleforce" was based on an entirely new principle of Physics that "no one has ever dreamed about" and was different from the principle embodied in his inventions relating to the transmission of electrical power from a distance, for which he received a number of basic patents.

TESLA stated that this new type of force would operate through a beam one hundredth millionth of a square centimeter in diameter and could be generated from a special plant that would cost no more than two million dollars and would take only about three months to construct. TESLA stated that a dozen such plants located at strategic points along the coast, according to TESLA, would be enough to defend the United States against all possible aerial attacks. TESLA stated that this beam would melt any engine and would also ignite explosives aboard any bomber. TESLA stated that no possible defense against it could be devised and he asserted that the beam would be all penetrating.

NY 65-12290

TESLA stated to Mr. LAWRENCE that he makes one important stipulation before he would divulge this secret to the United States Government and that was that should the United States Government decide to take up his offer, he would go to work at once but that the United States Government would have to trust him. TESLA stated that he would suffer "no interference from experts."

In this "New York Times" article Mr. LAWRENCE commented that with conditions as they were in 1940, and with the United States getting ready to spend millions of dollars for National Defense, Mr. TESLA's great reputation as an inventor, who always was many years ahead of his time, should be given careful consideration. Mr. LAWRENCE stated, in his opinion, the United States Government should take Mr. TESLA at his word and commission him to go ahead with the construction of his "teleforce" plant.

The New York file of Mr. TESLA bears no indication that any additional developments were carried on in connection with TESLA's invention and whether or not TESLA fully divulged his new plan to the United States Government.

TESLA died at the age of 85 on January 7, 1943.

Mr. SAVO provided a two page copy of the above mentioned newsletter which Mr. and Mrs. STORM have been distributing in connection with the alleged invention by TESLA, which, according to Mr. and Mrs. STORM, consists of a radio type machine known as the Tesla Set which was invented by Mr. TESLA in 1938 for interplanetary communication. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that TESLA's engineers did not complete the Tesla Set until after TESLA's death in 1943. Mr. and Mrs. STORM claim that this Set was placed in operation in 1950 and since that time TESLA engineers¹ have been in close touch with space ships. etc.

NY 65-12290

The Newsletter furnished by Mr. SAVO included
the following names:

MARGAET STORM

JOHN STORM

GEORGE VAN TASSEL, Yucca Valley, California NY

DANN FRY NY - NAME X

GEORGE KING, London, England

The files of the New York Office contained
no pertinent information regarding any of the
above mentioned individuals.

ART A HO NY

Two photostatic copies of this newsletter
are being sent to the Bureau for purposes of
information while one copy is being submitted to
the Los Angeles Office for information purposes.

March 14, 1958

REC-1

100-2237-9

Mr. Richard E. Robinson
2851 Livingston Street
Philadelphia 34, Pennsylvania

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Your letter postmarked March 7, 1958, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were taken into custody after his death by the Office of Alien Property in the Department of Justice and not by the FBI.

Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles reflect no record on correspondent. Bufiles reflect above type of reply has been utilized in the past in answering similar inquiries. (100-2237-7) Cover memorandum from Belmont to Boardman 6/29/55 set forth background of this matter which concerned the death of Tesla, a famous electrical inventor. Bureau was not involved in this matter, and the opening of the safe containing his effects was done by the Office of Alien Property.

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Nease
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

DCL:abs

E B (3)

REC.D - ESPIONAGE

COMM - FBI
MAR 14 1958
MAILED 19

8 MAR 21 1958

MAIL ROOM ☐

FBI - JUSTICE
REC.D BELMONT

Richard E. Robinson
2851 Livingston Street
Philadelphia, 34, Pa.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Sir:

DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

I am hopeful that you can help me obtain certain information on records and data, which belonged to Dr. Nikola Tesla. He was an Electrical Engineer and prolific inventor. *Cal 10*

He was born in Yugoslavia in 1856 and died in the United States, New York City, January 7th, 1943. He was a naturalized citizen of this country.

The only information I could find of his records was a report that the F.B.I. removed his papers for examination, and that the records were sealed by the custodian of alien property.

I have been doing some theoretical research of my own, which I believe may be along the same lines he followed in certain of his experiments. I also believe the development of his ideas would be in the interest of our country regardless of who develops them.

If it is at all possible for me to have access to at least some of his experimental work, I would certainly appreciate it. I am not able, by reason of the vast finances, which would be required, to conduct such experiments myself, so the data he made and collected would be invaluable.

Of course, it is possible that his records do not contain material pertinent to his electronics work, because from what I understand from reading about him, he kept most of his records in his head and wrote down very little of his data.

It is also possible that some of his ideas are impractical, but I feel sure that certain of his ideas will be of immense value to our country within the next several decades or even before, if they are developed at a rapid rate. *ph*

I would appreciate hearing from you on the subject, if you have any information pertaining to it, which you could make available to me.

REC-1

Sincerely,
16 MAR 18 1958

— R. E. Robinson

LI-131

Ack 3/14/58 "inml"
DCL

CRIME REC
222

REC- 91

101 X3

July 2, 1959

ank 100-2237-10
Mr. Ervin A. Koth, Jr.
3780 South 24th Street
Milwaukee 15, Wisconsin

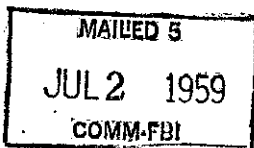
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY *SP4 Jm/ste*

Dear Mr. Koth:

Your letter dated June 24, 1959, ^{alb} has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,



John Edgar Hoover
Director

Left NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. *RW*

DCL:mch
(3) *mch*

JUL 5 2 38 PM '59

DEPT OF JUSTICE
FBI
FBI-WAIF

57 JUL 9 1959

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

June 24, 1959

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-88 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Dear Sirs,

I am doing a research study on the life of Dr. Nikola Tesla of New York City (1856 - 1943), and desire information which you may have. It was reported in the book "Prodigal Genius" that Dr. Tesla's papers were seized from his New York hotel room upon his death in 1943 by the F.B.I. I am very interested in getting copies of his papers for my study and would like to know if this report is true and where I might obtain further information about them or if you are holding them.

REC-91 100-2337-16

EX 101

JUL 6 1959

Sincerely yours,

Ervin A. Koth Jr.
3780 S. 24 St.
Milwaukee 15, Wis

CRIME REC. DIV.

my file 59
4-1-59
DCR

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TROTTER

DATE: 12-6-60

FROM : A. K. Bowles

SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA (DECEASED)
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Tolson	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	✓
Belmont	✓
Callahan	_____
DeLoach	_____
Malone	_____
McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jap/ste

Handwritten notes:
Gandy
D. Sullivan
J. Callahan
J. DeLoach

John Ohman, head of Physics Laboratory, Melpar, Incorporated, Boston, Massachusetts, telephoned December 5 and was referred to Ident by switchboard because he wanted to talk with someone in charge of records of deceased. Ohman said he is making a research study for U. S. Air Force on subject of geophysics. His deadline is ten days from now. Ohman said he just discovered a sentence in a book by John J. O'Neill entitled "The Prodigal Genius -- The Life of Nikola Tesla," which states the FBI took custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death in New York City in 1943. Tesla was a world-famous Yugoslav scientist and inventor in the electrical field who died January 7, 1943, in New York City. Ohman requested immediate access to Tesla's scientific works which may shed light on Ohman's research study. I told Ohman we would have somebody from our Boston Office contact him immediately.

Bureau file 100-2237 shows no investigation of Tesla has been conducted by Bureau. Since erroneous statement concerning FBI's taking custody of papers from Tesla's safe after his death appeared in O'Neill's book published in 1944, Bureau has received numerous inquiries from scientists desiring to review Tesla's writings. Each inquiry has been answered by stating FBI did not participate in handling Tesla's effects, but information has come to our attention that Office of Alien Property of Department of Justice may have examined Tesla's effects. (File indicates that representatives of Office of Alien Property did actually review Tesla's possessions, including his writings, but file does not show what final disposition was made of Tesla's possessions.)

A teletype to Boston Division was prepared, but before it was sent Ohman telephoned again to furnish me the exact page in O'Neill's book in which he refers to the FBI. At that time I told Ohman the statement in the book was untrue -- that the FBI had not examined or taken custody of Tesla's papers. I suggested to Ohman that he might contact Office of Alien Property. (Therefore, teletype to Boston was not necessary.) 100-2237-11

ACTION:

For record.

61 DEC 13 1960
Bu file 100-2237
1- Mr. Belmont

EX-113 REC-385 DEC 8 1960

REC- 55

100-2237-12

February 23, 1961

EX-76.2

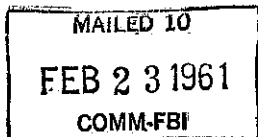
Mr. Warren E. Barnes
Box-160
Indiana Technical College
Fort Wayne, Indiana

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/pte

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Your letter of February 14, 1961, has been received, and the interest which prompted you to write is appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, I wish to advise that our files reflect that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, we are unable to supply the information you desire.



Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into authorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

RWE:jab

50 MAR 6 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Parsons _____
Mohr _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

Box 160
Indiana Technical College
Ft. Wayne, Indiana
February 14, 1961

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Information
Washington 25, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Dear Sir:

I am a college student who is doing a research paper on Nikola Tesla. As I was collecting the material for my paper, I discovered that at the time of Tesla's death, the department of the F.B.I. confiscated the data and papers that Tesla had collected from his research in the field of electricity. This confiscation of his material was stated in the PRODIGAL GENIUS by J.J. O'Neil, published in 1944 at New York city by Washburn Inc.

N.Y.

I have developed an interest in the discoveries and accomplishments of Tesla that is presently limited by the shortage of factual material. If in your files, you have any information concerning Nikola Tesla that you are permitted to release, I will sincerely appreciate your co-operation in helping me give the proper recognition to this great scientist and American. Below I have listed the facts that may be helpful to you;

REC- 55 100-2237-12

3 FEB 28 1961

EX-102

1. Born in 1856 at Smiljan, Croatia, now Yugoslavia
2. Came to America in 1884 and was employed for a short time with the Edison Co. at Orange, N.J.
3. Died on January 7, 1943 at New York city

Thanking you for your time and co-operation that I have taken, I remain,

CORRESPONDENCE

Sincerely Yours,
Warren E. Barnes
Warren E. Barnes

nm
ack 2/23/61
RWE/jah

114
A

REC-39

100-2237-13

November 27, 1962

Mr. Nils A. Marquard
116 Pinehurst Avenue
New York 33, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/rte

NOV 27 4 53 PM '62
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear Mr. Marquard:

Your letter of November 21st has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since this Bureau did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Handwritten signature]
JEM
Dug

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 shows that Dr. Tesla was one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating Dr. Tesla's property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply has been forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Dr. Tesla was born in Yugoslavia and died in New York City 1-7-43.

EFT:blc (3) 8
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

[Handwritten signatures and initials]
REC'D
JPM
paw
EFT

MAILED 8
NOV 27 1962
COMM-FBI

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

53 DEC 3 1962
140

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

November 21, 1962

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington 25, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I am making a study, motivated out of personal curiosity, into the life and works of Nikola Tesla. Mr. Tesla died on January 7, 1943 in the Hotel New Yorker. Since F.B.I. Operatives opened his safe and took his papers for examination, I wonder if these papers are available for perusal? If they are available, where would they be located, and are copies available to the public?

I am a citizen of the United States, and have been cleared for security--- the latest one being for work on Air Force Contracts for Eastman Kodak Company.

Thank you very much for any information or help you may be able to give me in this matter!!

Respectfully yours,

Nils A. Marquard
Nils A. Marquard

116 Pinehurst Ave.

New York 33, N.Y.

CS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmf/etc

EX-114

REC-39

100-2237-13

5 NOV 28 1962

CORRESPONDENCE

ack
EFT:blc
11-27-62

NOV 22 4 34 PM '62

FBI

REC-130
EX-112

100-2237-14

March 18, 1964

Mr. M. Pejaski
Post Office Box 64
Scott Air Force Base, Illinois

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/rtc

Dear Mr. Pejaski:

Your letter of March 10th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to supply the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 19
MAR 18 1964
COMM-FBI

MAR 18 4 12 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department who did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

Red

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

SAW:mc
(3)

Handwritten signatures and stamps:
- *McGuire*
- *Walters*
- *Tele. Room*
- *Director*

Handwritten signatures:
- *Don*
- *Sam/Gem*

57 MAR 25 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

P. O. Box 64,
Scott AFB, Ill.
10 March 1964.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sirs,

For some time, have been wondering about the matter of what was reported on the late Nikola Tesla, the inventor. He died during early January 1943, while in residence at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Accounts have it that his belongings (papers, etc.) were studied. Would appreciate learning if anything can be learned about this.

Am hoping to be on leave, and in Washington, along the third week of April. This is mentioned, in case it is possible to view anything relating to the question.

Sincerely,

M. Pejaski

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/rte

REC-130

EX-112

100-2237-14

10 MAR 19 1964

Sum/Son

ITC 3-17-64
ack 3-18-64
SAW/mm
mm
mm

P.O. Box 64,
St AFB, Ill.
16 March 1964.

Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sirs,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-14-82 BY SP1 JSK/mce

For some time, have been wondering about the matter of what was reported on the late Nikola Tesla, the inventor. He died during early January 1943, while in residence at the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Accounts have it that his belongings (papers, etc.) were studied. Would appreciate learning if anything can be learned about this.

Am hoping to be on leave, and in Washington, during the third week of April. This is mentioned, in case it is possible to view anything relating to the question.

Sincerely,
M. Pijaski

ITC 3-17-64
ack 3-18-64
SAW/mce
mm
me

CORRESPONDENCE
7/7/64

June 22, 1964

EX-103

REC-15

100-2237 15

Mr. Paul Jacoby
745 Rice Street
Wood River, Illinois 62095

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 JRP/ste

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

JUN 22 3 30 PM '64

Dear Mr. Jacoby:

Your card of June 16th ^{att} has been received.

In response to your inquiry, I would like to point out that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

SAW:ufy (3)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

JUN 25 4 01 PM '64
RECEIVED-DIRECTOR

4 JUN 26 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

Sir,

Tesla
According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola Festa"
by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some papers were taken from the
safe of Mr. Festa about 1945 yr. Is this true. If so are the
papers declassified yet? If so may I obtain a copy?

Zip 62095

Paul Jacoby - 745 Rice St., Wood River, Ill.

Sir,

According to "Prodical Genius, Nikola
Festa" by J. J. O'Neil (a book) some
papers were taken from the safe of

Mr. Tesla about 1945 yr. Is this true.

If so are the papers declassified yet?

If so may I obtain a copy?

zip 62095
Paul Jacoby - 745 Rice St., Wood River, Ill.

REC-15

EX-103

100-2237-15

3 JUN 23 1964

ack 6-22-64

S A H: yfy

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 jrm/rte

Em Bow

April 3, 1967

REC-49

100-2237-16

Mr. Lee R. Anderson
Department of General Science
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Your letter of March 28th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of
Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office
of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the
FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's
effects, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: No record could be located in Bufiles identifiable with
correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a
world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death,
all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to
the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The
book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI
took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property.
Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of
the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in
answer to related inquiries.

ED:emm (3)

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Wick _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

54 APR 11 1967

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

8

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

B

CORVALLIS, OREGON 97331

Reply to: DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SCIENCE

March 28, 1967

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Department of Information
9th Street & Pennsylvania Aven, N.W.
Washington 25, D. C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jrm/pte

Dear Sirs:

I am a student of the history of science at Oregon State University, and I am attempting to write a research paper on a very eccentric scientist who died in 1943. His name was Nikola Tesla, a naturalized American of Serbian extraction, and he died in his hotel room in New York City on January 8, 1943.

During the years leading up to World War II, Nikola Tesla supposedly invented a "Death Ray" which could destroy several hundred aircraft. Mr. Tesla was a very prolific and creative genius during his early years but gradually became something of a crackpot in his old age. As a student of the history of science, it is important to determine whether or not Tesla had any valid ideas in the plans for his death ray. Tesla invented the fluorescent light and also was one of the first scientists to discover X-Rays--hence there may be some possibility that his death ray might actually have been some crude type of laser.

In Tesla's biography, "Prodigal Genius", by John J. O'Neill, the author states on page 277:

"Operatives from the F.B.I. came to Tesla's hotel room shortly after his death and opened the safe in his room. They took the papers that it contained in order to examine them for a reported secret invention of possible use in the war..."

B

I am trying to locate Tesla's secret and unpublished writings concerning his death ray. I have searched the literature quite thoroughly and have found nothing. Does the F.B.I. still have these papers or can you tell where I might be able to obtain these writings for examination? Any assistance or information that you may lend me will be very much appreciated.

100-2237-16

Sincerely yours,

Lee R. Anderson

Lee R. Anderson
Graduate Assistant, History of
Science

12 APR 4 1967

REC 49

ack: 4/3/67
ED/...
...
LRA:dg

CORRESPONDENCE

March 4, 1969

REC-102

100-2237-17

Mr. James A. ~~X~~Broyles
Route 2
Fairmount, Indiana 46928

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ete

Dear Mr. Broyles:

Your letter of February 25th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication has been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 10

MAR 4 - 1969

COMM-FBI

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

LEE:jlsn (3)

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

54 MAR 13 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.

TRUE COPY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jrm/ptc

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In the year 1943 the F.B.I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting ahold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison.

Why without Nikola Tesla there would be Westinghouse Company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work."

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them.

I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

REC-102 100-2237-17

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank You,

James A. Broyles
R.R. #2
Fairmount, Indiana 46928

/s/

100-2237-17

J. Lee

ack
3-13-69
KEE/JP

1 to
2-28-69
CAC

nmh

Feb. 25, 1969

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In the year 1943 the F.B.I. confiscated all of the papers and maybe some of the machines of physicist, Nikola Tesla. These papers were his experiments and ideas at the time of his death. According to the books I've read, these papers were confiscated on the grounds of the enemy getting ahold of his ideas and apply them to war machines.

I have studied all of the material on this man and have found him to be more intelligent than the great "Brain" of his time, Thomas Edison.

Why without Nikola Tesla there would be Westinghouse Company as we know today. This is the man who harnessed Niagara Falls, and was the one and only man who could see the possibilities of Alternating Current when men like Edison said "it would never work."

What I am wondering is, maybe these papers could be reclassified from whatever "Top Secret" classification they now have and be made available for study by the people who understand and can gain knowledge from them.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-14-82 BY 60305/SP/ML

I would be willing to pay for reproductions of his experiments if nothing else. He still has a great many ideas that have never been tried.

It disturbs me to think that everyone has forgotten about the ideas of this man when he was so advanced for his time.

I can say with assurance that no man alive can say that he knows all of Tesla's ideas. And studying other men's ideas is the way to advance in science faster.

I hope something can be done to get these papers released.

Thank You,
James A. Broyles
R. R. #2
Fairmount, Indiana
46928

REC 44

100-2237-18

April 14, 1970

46
34

Mr. Paul Peters
171 Pine Brook Road
Lincoln Park, New Jersey 07035

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/pte

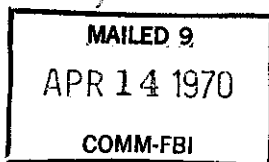
Dear Mr. Peters:

In reply to your inquiry of April 8th, the effects
of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the
Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by
the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's
belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.
A copy of your communication has been referred to the Depart-
ment of Justice for any help it may be able to offer.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent.
Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical
inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and
effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell
into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J.
O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it,
appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the
Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above
reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred
to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐
MHB:cfj (3)

171 Pine Brook Road
Lincoln Park, N.J. 07035
April 8, 1970

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Director of Central Records
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am doing a research paper on ^{Nikola}~~Nickola~~ Tesla and would appreciate it if you could please provide me with the following information.

That information being why did your Bureau impound his personal effects immediately after his death on January 7, 1943. Secondly, could you provide a list of those effects, and lastly, when were they released and to whom were they given.

Thanking you for the information


Paul Peters

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

REC 44

100-2237-18
APR 15 1970

CORRESPONDENCE

ack
4/14/70
mab/yj
NW 48747 DocId:32990902 Page 89

July 15, 1970

REC-3 100-2237-19

Mr. A. J. Baggs
12503 Washington Place
Mar Vista, California 90066

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/pte

Dear Mr. Baggs:

Your letter was received on July 13th and the interest which prompted you to write to me is appreciated. With respect to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings. In addition, this Bureau is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and matters such as you mentioned do not come within the scope of this Bureau's authority.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 9
JUL 15 1970
COMM-FBI

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and, at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. Bufiles indicate that the Office of Alien Property of the Department appropriated his property and replies similar to the above have been used to answer related inquiries.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Walters _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jmp/ste

A. J. Baggs
12503 Wash. Place
MarVista 66, Calif.
July 8, 1970. *only 90066*

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

Nikola Tesla

I am writing this to you as I believe that most of the government is infiltrated with foreign agents, and there is a very good chance this could be of extreme importance for the defense of our nation.

I met a man a number of years ago that was raised on Long Island in the neighborhood where Mr. Tesla, inventor of the Tesla Coil, had his lab. He told me of Mr. Tesla's notes blowing down the street when the junk men were dismantling his equipment. It would be a wonderful thing if some of these notes were salvaged and could be found.

Mr. Tesla was at least a century ahead of his time. He sent radio signals around the world seventeen years prior to Mr. Marconi, who received the credit, and pioneered many fields. He was so far advanced that he had to invent a special math to keep up with his work.

He, on several occasions talked before the scientists of the world and became very angry at their inability to understand him, and due to this was violently disliked and did not receive acknowledgement for his discoveries. One of the notes read by this man told of the radio transmission of electricity being brought to a high degree of efficiency.

Now here is the thing that should be investigated thoroughly. During my High School education, in the winter of either 19-25-26 or 1926-27, I made a current events report on an article appearing in a small publication of that name that was received weekly at the Troy High School, Troy Montana. It stated in this article that Mr. Tesla had made an offer to the Congress of the United States that if they would install radio transmission towers at every 150 miles around the border of this country, that he would install equipment that would broadcast a vertical plane of energy beyond the atmosphere through which no material object could pass as it would shatter or lose its molecular cohesion. It was refused.

There is a good chance that this data is in the files of congress. What a defence, and boy do we need it. **EX-117 REC-3 100-2237-19**

I have had some results along this line with structured vortices of magnetic fields, but do not have the technical equipment or knowledge to carry out further experiments. The theory is quite simple and deals with particle acceleration, and it works to the best of my knowledge.

9 JUL 16 1970

Sincerely

A. J. Baggs
A. J. Baggs,
Inventor.

December 14, 1971

REC-28

100-2237-20
Mr. Edward L. Zuver
16 Emerson Road
Nabnasset, Massachusetts 01861

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/ste

Dear Mr. Zuver:

Your letter of December 6th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. We did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings in any way. Copies of your communication and my reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

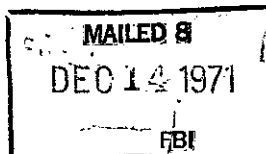
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record correspondent. Dr. Tesla was world-famous electrical inventor, and at death, his effects believed dangerous to country's security. "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges FBI took safe and appropriated his property. Above reply previously given to same inquiries. (100-2237) Material sent to the Assistant Attorney, Civil Division, of the Department.

MLN:jam (4)

Tolson _____
Felt _____
Rosen _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Callahan _____
Casper _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Cleveland _____
Ponder _____
Bates _____
Tavel _____
Walters _____
Soyars _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



58 DEC 21 1971

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

16 EMERSON ROAD

NABNASSET, MASS

01861

6 DECEMBER 1971

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have recently begun a collection and reading file of all matters pertaining to Nikola Tesla. In so doing I was amazed to find that upon his death; January 7, 1943, in NYC, your bureau confined his papers. May I ask if you still "have them in jail". I am extremely interested in his work(s) and am trying to establish my own "Tesla" library. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


EDWARD L. ZUVER

EDWARD L. ZUVER

16 EMERSON ROAD

NABNASSET, MASS 01861

REC-79 100-2237-20

16 DEC 15 1971

EX-117

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jrm/rtc

CORRESPONDENCE
Ember

*Ack in ml
12-13-71
MLNijam*

ST-113

October 31, 1972

REC-48

100-2237-21

Mr. Steven Trammell
4130 Dinn Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ptc

Dear Mr. Trammell:

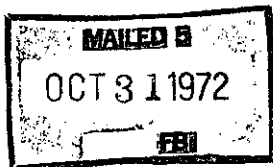
Your letter was received on October 26th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. I am forwarding a copy of your communication and of this reply to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director



NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neil, alleges that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.

Felt _____
Baker _____
Bates _____
Bishop _____
Callahan _____
Cleveland _____
Conrad _____
Dalbey _____
Jenkins _____
Marshall _____
Miller, E.S. _____
Ponder _____
Soyars _____
Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Kinley _____
Mr. Armstrong _____
Ms. Healy _____
Mr. Neenan _____

mn:jkm
57 NOV 6 1972
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TEB
GEM
fwg

mm

Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania
Northeast Washington D. C. 20535

Dear Sirs,

Upon reading a biography on Nikola Tesla, I found the urge to read more on him and his works. At the end of the book it was stated that the F.B.I. went to his hotel room gathered up his papers and locked them in a vault. The thing I would like to know is the real reason they were locked up and if it would be possible to see some of these records and any other works of his.

I can think of only one possible reason as to cause of his records being locked up and that is because he was too far advanced for his time. This seems to be the only logical solution, but, with technology much more advanced now than in his time it would seem likely that scientists take over where he left off.

Please let me know if I can look at the records and if you can please answer my question of the real reason his records were locked up.

Thank You,
Steven Trammell

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jrm/ste

ST-113

Steven Trammell
4130 Dinn Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78415

REC-48

100-2237-21

NOV 1 1972

CORRESPONDENCE
Jrm

EX-111

REC-36

April 11, 1973

Mr. Farrell Kelly
Route 1
Liberty, North Carolina 27298

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/rtc

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Your letter was received on April 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

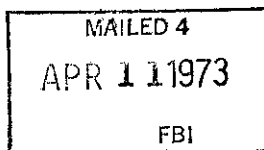
Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray III

L. Patrick Gray, III
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)

cam:cmc (4)



APR 10 15 02 PM '73

Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Baker _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Cleveland _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Gebhardt _____
Mr. Jenkins _____
Mr. Marshall _____
Mr. Miller, E.S. _____
Mr. Soyars _____
Mr. Thompson _____
Mr. Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Kinley _____
Mr. Armstrong _____
Mr. Bowers _____
Mr. Herington _____
Ms. Herwig _____
Mr. Mintz _____
Mrs. Neenan _____

54 APR 24 1973

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

mcose
4710

com

8

Faith Kelly
Route 1
Liberty, North Carolina
April 3, 1973

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington
District of Columbia

27298
Per
Zip code
der
gar

Dear sirs:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-2-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

During my research on
Nikola Tesla, I found that
the F.B.I. had confiscated
his records pertaining to his
experiments. I would like to
know if such information is
available and, if so how
copies might be obtained.

I am an engineering
student and hope possibly to
resume where Tesla left off.

I have the honor
to remain,

EX-111

REC-36

Faith Kelly
100-2237-22

12 APR 11 1973

CORRESPONDENCE

ack
4-11-73

EX-109

June 27, 1973

REC-26

100-2237-23

Mr. Paul G. Snigier
360 Pleasant Street
Raynham, Massachusetts 02767

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-82 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Dear Mr. Snigier:

Your letter was received on June 25th.

In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus

William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

NOTE: Bufiles indicate one letter to correspondent dated 4-15-66 in reply to his inquiry regarding the Air Force's Project Blue Book and UFO sightings. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department that did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)
mn:cmc (4)

cmc

54 JUL 6 1973

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Paul G. Snigier
360 Pleasant St.
Raynham, Mass. 02767
June 20, 1973

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Gentlemen::

I would like to know if any microfilm or other reproductions of Nikola Tesla's notes and papers exist at your office. Tesla was a famous scientist who died in New York City. The Federal Bureau of Investigation entered his safe shortly after this to remove his papers for examination for the war effort. After the war the papers were offered to any group that would start a museum to house them. No one accepted and the papers were finally sent to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, sometime in the early 1950's, possibly just before 1954. Tesla was the inventor of all ac. motors and the polyphase system, as well as all flourescent and neon lamps. He was a major pioneer in the early days of radio and discovered many of the early principles of radar. He declined nomination of a Nobel Prize. He was a naturalized citizen of America and said he valued his citizenship papers above all his awards and possessions. Despite this, all his papers were sent to another nation.

I would like to examine some of his papers from 1899 and later without having to fly to Yugoslavia. I have only seen a condensed copy of his research from Colorado Springs, but am unable to obtain copies. The principles and equipment are rather out-of-date and well-known, but still useful in my research.

I would greatly appreciate help in this matter.

Sincerely, REC-26

Paul G. Snigier

Paul G. Snigier

JUN 29 1973

P.S. Tesla died in January of 1943 and shortly after ~~this~~ the papers were removed from his safe. The original copies of these papers were sent abroad prior to 1954, as I believe it was in that year the Yugoslavs founded the Tesla Museum (not to be confused with the Tesla Institute).

CORRESPONDENCE

July 5, 1973

ST-105

REC-15

100-2237-24

Honorable Robert M. Packwood
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-8-80 BY SP4 Jm/ste

Dear Senator Packwood:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated June 26th enclosing a letter from your constituent, Mr. G. Frierson Haertig, who is temporarily employed in Alaska.

In response to Mr. Haertig's inquiry, central files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire.

I am returning your enclosure as you requested.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Ruckelshaus
William D. Ruckelshaus
Acting Director

Enclosure

1 - Portland Enclosures (2)

1 - Congressional Services Office - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Bufiles reveal prior cordial correspondence with Senator Packwood. Mr. G. Frierson Haertig is not identifiable in Bufiles. Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries.

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Mohr
Mr. Holt

Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Baker _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Cleveland _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Gebhardt _____
Mr. Jenkins _____
Mr. Marshall _____
Mr. Miller, E.S. _____
Mr. Soyars _____
Mr. Thompson _____
Mr. Walters _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Beise _____
Mr. Barnes _____
Mr. Bowers _____
Mr. Herington _____
Mr. Conmy _____
Mr. Mintz _____
Mr. Fordley _____
Mrs. Hogan _____

PLA
3

United States Senate

June 26, 1973

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

Senator Bob Packwood

ATTN: U.S.S. Alan Holmer

Form #2

Encl 1

EXP. PROC.
JUN-29 1973
No

ENCLOSURE

ack
7-3-73
PLA:mb

ST-105

REC-15

JAS
MCT

100-2237-24
7-5
JUN 29 1973

4/PLA
CORRESPONDENCE

G. Frierson Haertig
WASS
c/o 719 AC&W Squadron
Sparrevohn AFS
Alaska, 98746

20 June 1973

Dear Senator Packwood,

Though in Alaska temporarily working on a military contract, I still consider myself an Oregon resident, hence it is to you that I write.

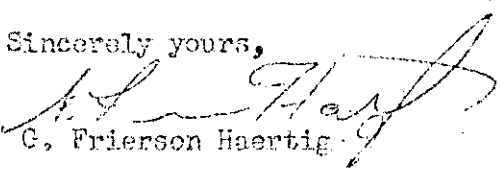
NIKOLA Tesla

During my days at Reed College, I became interested in a fascinating Czech physicist, Nicolai Tesla. Professor Tesla emigrated to this country in the twenties, I believe, and did some of his most original work here. Tesla had a peculiar bent of mind, in his younger days he was often called a mad scientist, and did not publish extensively when he came to the US. Most of the extant primary material is in untranslated Czech. Tesla was, however, an extensive note taker. I thought it strange that upon his death, none of his notes from his American period ever appeared. Upon discussing this with a friend, I was informed that all of Mr. Tesla's notes were confiscated by the FBI. I cannot conceive how these notes on physics and electricity can in any way endanger the national safety. It seems that Mr. Hoover in his zeal, had confiscated material whose only sin was a radical approach to science. There is indication that much of Professor Tesla's later work concerned a very novel approach to time theory. Needless to say, it has been radical approaches to physics that have been our greatest scientific advances in modern times, viz. Einstein, Heisenberg, et al.

I was wondering if your office might be able to determine if these papers are still extant, and if so, see to it that the public has access to them. It would be a shame to see all of Nicolai Tesla's work to have been in vain.

Please excuse my typing, in all the thousands of words I typed trying to get a liberal education, I never did master the typewriter.

Sincerely yours,


G. Frierson Haertig

100-2237-24
ENCLOSURE

Suite 2B Central Exchange
777 S. Central Expressway
Richardson, Texas 75080

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington, D.C.

12 July 1973

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/rtc

Dear Sirs,

It has come to my attention that upon the death of Mr. Nikola Tesla, the founder of modern A.C. power systems, and the original inventor of radio, and innumerable other devices, operatives of the F.B.I. opened his safe and removed his papers on 7 January 1943, within a few hours of his demise. Also, all records of his work have been siezed and held by our government since his death. I would like to know WHY, and also to be informed as to who was, and is responsible for keeping the lid on those records. I would also like to know where they are now.

I do hope you enjoy a good laugh over the aparent naievity of such a request as this, but it is a rather strange situation to exist in a country like this, that a man of such genius and achievement could be systematically cut out of history books, and that the facts about his works could be concealed to the degree they have been. I wish to obtain access to all those old records which have been concealed for thirty years. I would appreciate your kind consideration and attention to this matter and any assistance you may care to give.

9 JUL 20 1973

Sincerely, _____

nmk
ack 7-19-73

<i>Rick Filisky</i>
<i>2B 777 S. Central Exp</i>
<i>Richardson, Texas</i>
<i>75080</i>

Rick Filisky

CORRESPONDENCE

July 19, 1973

REC-60

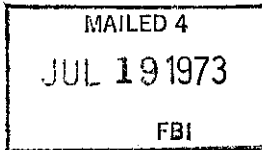
Mr. Rick Filisky
Suite 2B, Central Exchange
777 South Central Expressway
Richardson, Texas 75080

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-88 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

EX-105

Dear Mr. Filisky:

Your letter was received on July 16th. In response to your inquiry, the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to furnish the information you desire. A copy of your communication and of this reply have been referred to the Department of Justice.



Sincerely yours,
C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent. (Bufile 100-2237 reflects that Dr. Tesla was a world-famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his death, all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands. The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his property. Bufiles clearly indicate that it was the Office of Alien Property of the Department which did so, and the above reply is forwarded in answer to related inquiries. Copy of letter referred to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the Department.)

jkb:cmc (4)

58 JUL 24 1973

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Assoc. Dir. _____
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Cong. Serv. _____
Corr. & Crm. _____
Research _____
Press Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

REC 68

100-2237-26

August 2, 1973

ST-102

Mr. Rick Filisky
Suite 2B
777 South Central Expressway
Richardson, Texas 75080

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Dear Mr. Filisky:

Your letter, which was received on July 30th, ^{with} has been reviewed and I would like to point out that FBI Agents were not involved in removal of papers from the safe of Dr. Nikola Tesla, nor did we at any time have custody of his property.

I realize there have been some written accounts that our Agents acquired Dr. Tesla's belongings; however, these accounts are simply not true. You can be assured we were absolutely not responsible and there was no impersonation involved.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Correspondent had written in mid-July and asked about the effects of Dr. Tesla and he was advised that the Office of Alien Property had participated in removing his effects from his hotel room. A copy of his communication was referred to the Department of Justice. Bufiles indicate clearly that after Dr. Tesla's death some relatives opened the safe in his hotel room with the help of a locksmith and, thereafter, the Office of Alien Property confiscated all of his belongings. Bufile 100-2237 mentions that the FBI was advised of the existence of this property; however, inasmuch as the Office of Alien Property was handling Dr. Tesla's effects, the Bureau had absolutely no hand in the entire matter.

RWE:ncr (3)

Assoc. Dir. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Cong. Serv. _____
Corr. & Crm. _____
Research _____
Press Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

57 AUG 10 1973

Rock Filisky Suite 2B
7 S. Central Expy.
Richardson, Texas 75080

Clarence M. Kelley
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jem/rtc

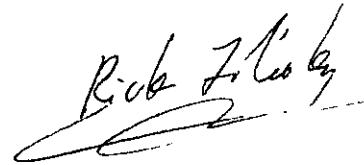
Dear Mr. Kelley,

Thank you for your letter of the 19th of July. I appreciate the information about the Office of Alien Property and its connection with the impounding of the effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In my letter of the 16th I did not mean to imply the FBI had impounded his effects, as I was aware of the O.A.P.'s general part in the affair. The fact remains that to the best of my knowledge, it WAS agents of the FBI who did in fact break into his safe only hours after his death, and did remove the papers therein. Now, in so far as the Bureau was connected, I wish to understand that extent. I do appreciate your referring my communication to the appropriate persons in the Justice Department, but perhaps you could see that the above mentioned connection of the Bureau could be further looked into. I am curious as to who asked the Bureau to perform such an act, whether it was a person in the O.A.P. or what, and on what grounds they were carried out, and to whom they were responsible. Also, to what person were the perloined papers delivered? Names of the agents involved would be appreciated. As to what happened to any other effects of his, that is probably a question more ably answered by the O.A.P., yet if Bureau agents participated once, they may have done so on other occasions. If the persons who did open the safe were NOT FBI agents, then we are faced with the fact that persons apparently posed as Bureau operatives, an even more interesting situation. Perhaps this whets your own curiosity about

CORRESPONDENCE

this affair, though on the surface it only has historic interest. Are you aware that before the year 1900 he was able to transmit thousands of watts of electric power to any point on the globe WITHOUT WIRES. This and other feats would make him a prime target for vested interest groups, notably the J.P.Morgan combine with whom he had connections. I am aware of the well earned tradition of the Bureau of NOT serving any master but the common good, so again we have a curious point if indeed strings were pulled. Quite frankly, it looks as if someone went to a lot of trouble to see that his ideas were not broadly available to ensure the stability of their own electric technological apple cart financially, at the expense of unguessable benefits to to humanity as a whole. How would you like to be able to draw unlimited power out of the air to run say a lightbulb with ONE wire? He did it, and much more. My sincere thanks for your thought and attentions to these matters.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rick F. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

July 7, 1975

EX-117

REC-36

62-115530-4553

100-2237-26X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jap/rtc

Miss Roberta L. Pease
3348 Cadillac Drive
San Jose, California 95117

Leonard M. Corp
CALIF.

Dear Miss Pease:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 9th.

In response to your inquiry, the papers of
Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by the
Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

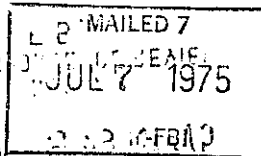
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

~~1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure~~
~~Attention: Susan M. Hauser~~

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was a
world famous electrical inventor, and at the time of his
death his personal papers and effects were impounded by
Office of Alien Property for national security reasons.
Since Tesla's death in 1943 the Bureau has received numerous
inquiries about the disposition of his technical papers.
The above reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries.
Bufiles contain no information identifiable with requesters.

dbb:cgg (4)

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs _____
Records Mgmt. _____
Director's Sec'y _____



JUL 29 1975

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

D. B. 5434

GPO 954-1

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Records Section

9/11, 1975

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Attention 5438ph
☒ Return to Dotti Bernard 15529
 Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main References Only
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 7-14-82 BY SP00000000

Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject Leonard M. Cox
 Birthdate & Place _____
 Address _____

Localities _____

Date _____ Searcher Initials _____

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

77-32591	Leonard M. Cox
51	
116-125325	Leonard Murphy
15-59752	
47-15498	
88-26685	
88-38091	
116-33387	
116-275277	
122-3081	
26-76359-34.3	
64-46933-815	
65-27433-93	
88-297-43	
91-14822-4048	
91-25584-705	
100-0-21244	
100-3081-3	

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Leonard M. Cox

Supervisor _____ Room _____

R# _____ Date 7/1 Searcher Initial flm

Prod. _____

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

L. M.

26-112198

76-18364

77-32591

95-24235

62-73092-3

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section, 19 75

☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543 JEH-FBI Bldg.
☐ Service Unit, 4654 JEH-FBI Bldg.
☐ Forward to File Review
☒ Attention Walter Bernard
☐ Return to 5438RA X5509
 Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☐ Restricted to Locality of
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Subject Robert L. Peace
 Birthdate & Place
 Address

Localities

R# Date 7/1 Searcher Initials dfm

Prod. FILE NUMBER SERIAL

NR

(BU + Bd't)
NR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 7-17-82 BY SP1ESK/MLK

June 9, 1975

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington D.C. 20535

Sirs:

We recently contacted the San Francisco FBI office and a review of their files revealed no information concerning the scientist Nikola Tesla or his papers which we understand to have been impounded. *denied*

If you could make a thorough investigation of all files and materials available to you, we would greatly appreciate the correspondence of any information that might be discovered. *no ltr.*

Thank you,

Roberta L. Pease
Leonard M. Cox

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-8 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

EX-117

ASAC T. Drucken, S.F.
advised 7/1/75 the
address for registration
is 3348 Cad. Mac Drive,
San Jose, Cal. 95117
Drucken

REC-36

100-2237-26X

16 JUN 16 1975

ack to Roberta L. Pease
7-7-75
ack to Leonard M. Cox
7/7/75
cgg

REC-57 EX 103

100-2237-27

November 26, 1975

Mr. Oliver ~~Nichelson~~
3908 Byrd Road
Kensington, Maryland 20795

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter
to the Bureau on November 14th. *atb*

In response to your inquiry, the papers of
Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after his death, by
the Office of Alien Property of the Department of
Justice.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

NOTE: Bufile 100-2237 indicates that Dr. Tesla was
a World famous electrical inventor, and at the time
of his death his personal papers and effects were
impounded by Office of Alien Property for National
Security reasons. Since Tesla's death in 1943 the
Bureau has received numerous inquiries about the
disposition of his technical papers. The above
reply is forwarded in answer to these inquiries.

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
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Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

baf:gjd (5)

DEC 24 1975

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☒

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

3908 Byrd Rd.
Kensington, Md. 20795

13 November 1975

Mr. Clarence Kelley
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, D.C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

Dear Mr. Kelley:

In reply to the letter of 10 November from your office:

I restate that I was not asking about the existence or non-existence of any investigative information on Nikola Tesla, but on his technical papers seized on his death in 1943 and reported in the papers of that time.

The reason given in the reply from your office, the second paragraph, as to why I cannot get any information on Tesla's papers makes no sense in itself or in reply to my inquiry. The third paragraph stating the conditions under which a search will be made is a clear bureaucratic circumvention of the Freedom of Information Act and an excuse on the part of the individual handling my request for doing any work beyond the drafting of a letter. Will it be the decision of your office to let the situation stand like this?

As I stated in my first letter, I am following up the Tesla data for a magazine article. I am tempted to have your reply of the 10th printed and run nationally as an example of how bureaucratic manoeuvring is used to get around the FOIA. Does the bureau need more of this type of publicity?

It is disheartening to see an agency entrusted to uphold the law using its resources to mock the law.

Sincerely,

Oliver Nichelson
Oliver Nichelson

EX 103
REC-57

100-2237-27

26
21 NOV 14 1975

REC

100-2237-28

November 10, 1975

Mr. Oliver Nicholson
3908 Byrd Road
Kensington, Maryland 20795

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request forwarded to the FBI by the Department of Justice on October 22nd.

In response to your request for files pertaining to Nikola Tesla, please be advised that in order to preserve the privacy of an individual who may be the subject of a similar inquiry, it has been necessary for the FBI to maintain the practice of not indicating whether we do or do not have such information in our files.

If you can provide notarized authorization from Mr. Tesla's next of kin directing us to release to you any information our files may contain concerning him, we shall thereafter search our files and advise you accordingly.

Since we have not conducted a search of our files, please do not infer that we do or do not have the information you requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Assoc. Dir. _____
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Director Sec'y _____

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

baf/vas (5)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

62 DEC 30 1975

F303

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

Address 3908 Byrd Rd.

Kensington, Md. 20795

17 October 1975

Freedom of Information Act Request

Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20535

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
OCT 21 9 47 AM '75

Gentlemen:

I am writing an article for a magazine on early twentieth century inventors and want to obtain information on some papers of Nikola Tesla that were seized by the FBI on his death in 1943. (Deceased) U.S.A.

Tesla invented a number of electrical devices and because of the war and because Tesla was born a Yugoslavian national, it was probably considered a measure of preventive safety to hold in safekeeping papers that might have any bearing on national security. *B*

I would like to find out: 1) if the FBI still has the papers;
2) if they do have the papers, what must be done to see them;
3) if they do not have the papers, who does have them or what happened to them?

I would be very grateful for your help with this.

100-2237-28

62-115530-9906

REC-2

EX-111

Sincerely, 5 OCT 24 1975

Oliver Nicholson

Oliver Nicholson

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-88 BY SP4 Jmp/ptc

F.O.I.A.

100-2237-28

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rtc

April 30, 1976

EX-115

REC-47

100-2237-29

Mr. Paul Snigier
360 Pleasant Street
Raynham, Massachusetts 02767

Dear Mr. Snigier:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th, with
enclosures. It was certainly most thoughtful of you to
furnish us this information, and your interest and
courtesy are indeed appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

NOTE: Bufiles indicate limited correspondence with Snigier,
last outgoing 6-27-73, in reply to his request concerning
papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. Dr. Tesla was a world-famous
electrical inventor, and at the time of his death in 1943,
all of his personal papers and effects were believed dangerous
to the country's security if they fell into unauthorized hands.

The book, "Prodigal Genius," by John J. O'Neill, alleged that
the FBI took over a certain safe and opened it, appropriating his
property. Bufiles indicated the Office of Alien Property of
the Department of Justice did so. Bufile 100-2237-23.

Files & Com. CAM:kmh (3)

Assoc. Dir. _____
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Dep. AD Inv. _____
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Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director _____

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

58 MAY 21 1976
31 JUN 21 1976

GPO : 1975 O - 594-120

Paul Snigler
360 Pleasant St.
Raynham, MA 02767
April 20, 1976

Cam
29

Mr. Clarence Kelly
Director
F.B.I.
Washington, DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jrm/rtc

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Mr. Allen and Mr. Ruchlehaus, former acting Director of the FBI, contacted me in 1973 regarding the unavailability of American microfilm records of Nikola Tesla's unpublished diary (now in the Belgrade museum, arranged-by month per folder).

At the time I discounted the possibility that these unpublished discoveries had military significance. But because of experiments now under way at Hill AFB, I now suspect such military applications exist and feel it imperative that you be notified, particularly in view of the fact that the Soviets have primary access to the entire collection.

Two photos of each page exist.

After Tesla's death, scientists from the Navy and OSS performed a cursory examination of the diary and notes, which if my memory serves me correctly, was one month long, hardly enough time to decipher Tesla's torturous handwriting. Though Tesla wrote in English, his penmanship was small, blurred, and as difficult to translate as a foreign language.

According to the museum director (1971), the Soviets had made copies of some portions, but not the Colorado Springs diary, which numbers 500 pages, 20 that directly pertain to ball lightning, and 20 or so relevant to the equipment construction. (We copied the most significant portions, but feel more exists).

EX-115 REC-52 100-2237-29
I have been associated with Project Tesla for four years, have just completed an article for my magazine, EDN (an electrical engineering magazine), but only with the very recent receipt of an unpublished manuscript from John J. O'Neill's book (PRODIGAL GENIUS) did I place credence on Tesla's later claim to military applications. Incidentally, some of O'Neill's descriptions were inaccurate and exaggerated, as we have exceeded Tesla's results and are familiar with the experiments. At any rate, there are three possible military applications.

MAY 3 1976
CORRESPONDENCE

First, Tesla claimed that the lightning balls (which destroyed his equipment) could be used to destroy aircraft. I have talked to AF personnel,--such as Tim Hickey, engineer at Micro Networks, who saw one inside his plane in flight--and found AF personnel fear these "rf balls," as they call them.

Second, it is a suspicion of mine that ball lightning, if injected with lithium, could produce a cheap fusion bomb.

Third--and this may be no more than a suspicion--the propulsion mode of ball lightning involves electro-gravitic interaction, by which means air vehicles of revolutionary configuration may be constructed. There are no presently-known laws of physics that can account for the propulsion (400 mph or so when following an airliner). Other hitherto unsuspected applications may exist.

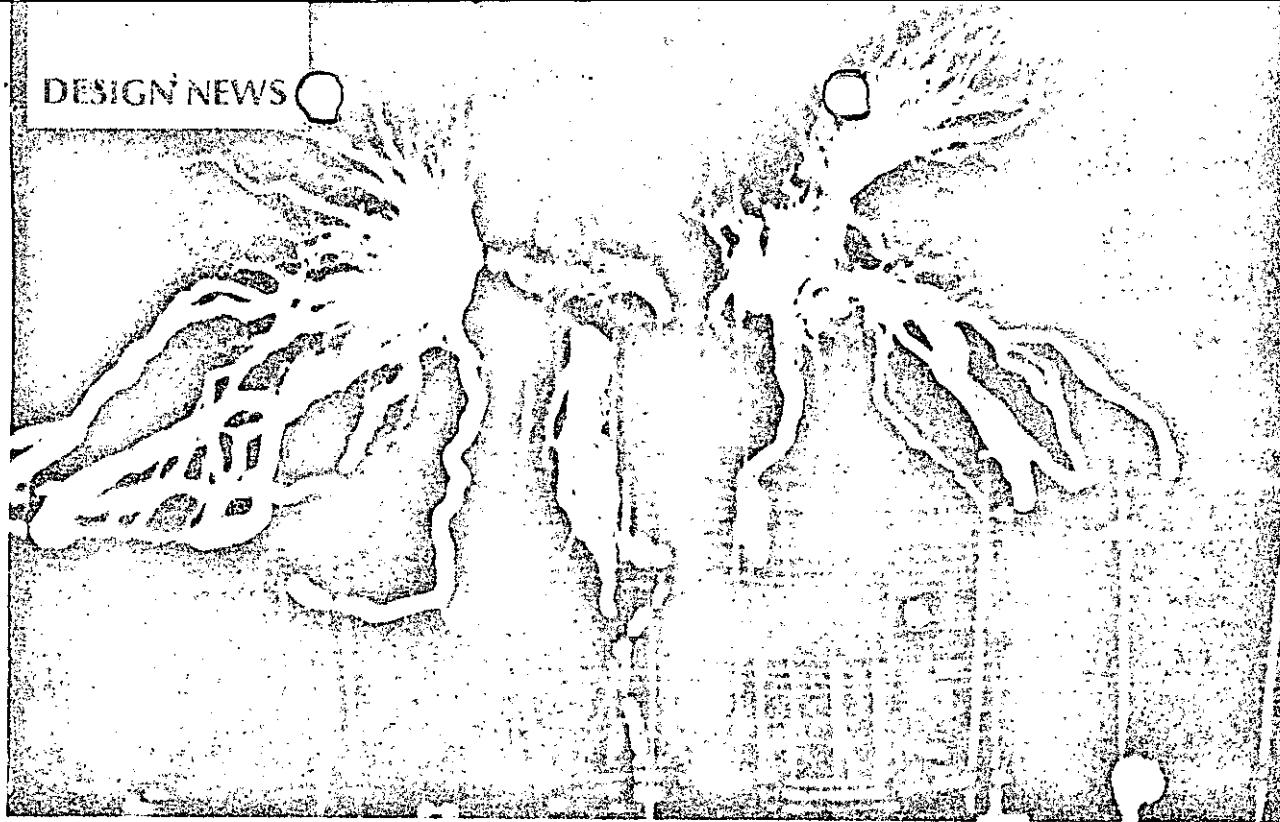
None of these applications were the goal of Project Tesla, which centered on producing ball lightning as Tesla did and studying it as a plasma confinement technique for fusion reactors. Incidentally, Tesla's claim to setting up standing waves on the earth's surface (wireless power) was erroneous and involved techniques similar to Project Sanguine, that is, using the earth's atmosphere as a waveguide (Dr. Wait is aware of our research).

Cordially,

Paul Snigier
Paul Snigier

P.S. By a copy of this letter, along with the enclosures, I am notifying the C.I.A.

Enclosures: 2



Fusion energy: will experiments in ball lightning provide the key?

Paul Snigier, Associate Editor

In the vast and empty hangar where the first atomic bomb was assembled, a man-made lightning storm is now being unleashed. The voltages of these lightning bolts—20 million volts—are the highest discharge voltages ever produced by man.

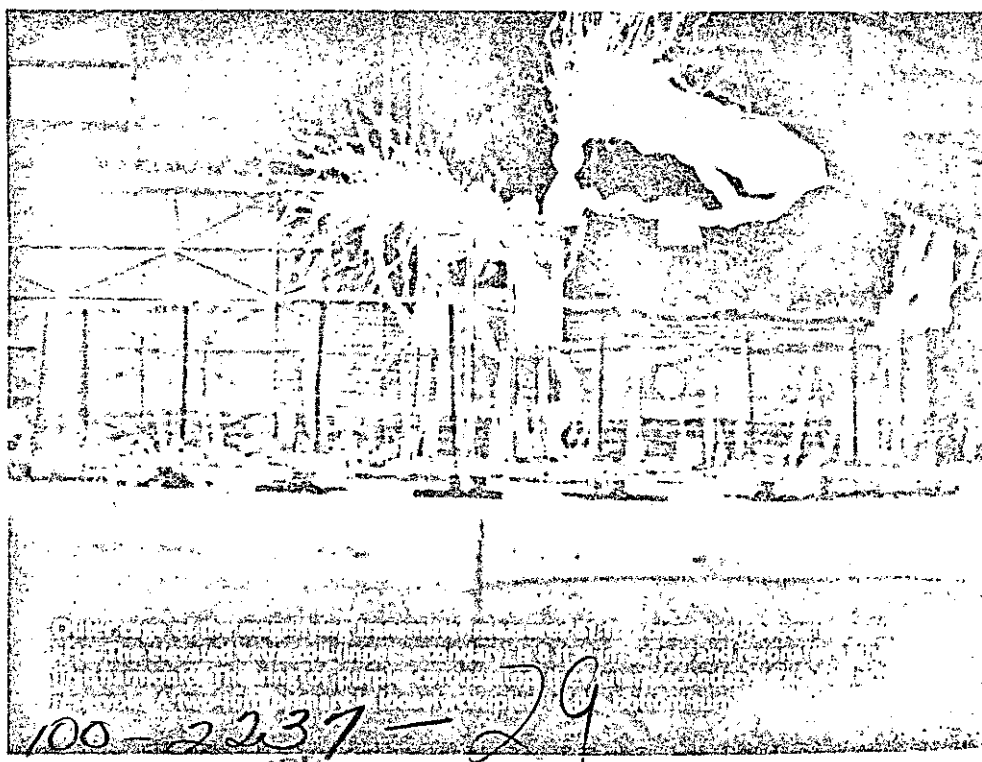
Project Tesla, headed by Robert K. Golka and Dr. Robert W. Bass, is an attempt to artificially duplicate one of nature's rarest and most terrifying phenomena—ball lightning. The experiments are based upon the unpublished notes of Nikola Tesla, who, in 1899 at his Colorado Springs laboratory, used a secret *magnifying transmitter* to produce 1.5-in. lightning balls that floated for 30 sec.

The energy surplus

Many physicists, including the eminent Dr. James Tuck, founder of the U.S. fusion program, believe that the lightning ball holds the key to a fantastic,

cheap and endless energy source—fusion power, or the energy source used by the stars and sun. The fuel is deuterium, or heavy water, that can be inexpensively extracted from ocean water to provide mankind

Highest voltage continuously oscillating damped-wave lightning generator (ever produced by mankind) creates a current of 1100A at 12.5 MV! Subsequent improvements raised this to a peak current of 2200A at 20 MV. Further improvements could conceivably produce bolts that exceed natural lightning (100 MV)!



100-2237-29
ENCLOSURE

with millions of years of energy. Unfortunately, progress in fusion research, which has centered on magnetic confinement and laser implosions, has been frustratingly slow and full of unpleasant surprises; and scientists warn that success could be as far off as four decades! But if these promising experiments under way at Wendover, UT, are successful, a new unexpected confinement technique could unleash this energy source.

In search of nature's secrets...

Ball lightning, a glowing sphere of red, orange or yellow plasma, often materializes during lightning storms and floats about, often against a strong wind. The ball may bounce along the floor and, on occasion, the sphere will "slip" through glass without breaking it. (The author recently investigated one such case in a hospital, in which the lights were damaged.) At times it materializes inside or even outside aircraft in flight, seemingly impervious to deformation from the wind force.

Witnesses of ball lightning have included such notables as Niels Bohr and Victor Weisskopf, the Director of the MIT Physics Department. Another witness was Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who reported seeing it cross the breakfast table aboard the presidential plane.

The accidental formation of ball lightning has been observed about once per year for the past decade inside building 985 at Hill AF Missile Radiographic Facility, UT. The volleyball-size fireballs drop out of the space adjacent to the high voltage supply of the 25 Mev linear accelerator.

The ball of blue fire floats down to the floor, rolls around randomly and then rises again to the power-supply area where it dissipates without detectable damage. Despite troubleshooting, no explanation can be found for this occurrence.

On one occasion, lightning struck the building—a large concrete structure with a 60-ft. ceiling inside—and, simultaneously, an intense sphere of fire the size of a tennis ball formed above the conduit on the wall at

nearly shoulder level. It moved along the wall for a distance of some 30 ft., floated out and around the neck and shoulders of a person standing near the wall, moved back to the wall and continued along for several feet until it intercepted a duplex outlet on the conduit. At this the ball exploded, causing electrical damage throughout.

A new state of matter?

No presently known laws of physics can account for the stability and bouncing of fireballs unless it includes surface tension. This hitherto unobserved state of matter is a new concept, since plasmas have never previously exhibited such strong surface tension. Also, presently known laws cannot account for the propulsion.

Project Tesla has developed a rigorous mathematical model of the lightning ball's absolute, asymptotic, fluid-dynamical stability. Initial computer studies indicated a density range of 10^{13} - 10^{11} cm⁻³, with a temperature of 10^5 - 10^8 °K—or seven times hotter than the sun! □

TESLA TRIES TO PREVENT WORLD WAR II

This material, pertaining to ball lightning, was not published in John J. O'Neill's book. O'Neill was not a scientist & may have misinterpreted some results.

When Tesla was talking as a scientist he was opposed to some results. But, like most scientists, when he stopped thinking as a scientist, these and let his emotions rule his thoughts, he found exceptions in later which he felt some wars and situations were justifiable. As a scientist he was unwilling to have the discoveries of scientists in light of applied to the purposes of war makers, but when the emotional phase of his nature took the ruling position he was then willing to apply his genius to devising measures that would prevent wars by supplying protective devices.

there may be something there after all.

This attitude is exemplified in the following statement which he prepared in the twenties but did not publish:

"At present many of the ablest minds are trying to devise expedients for preventing a repetition of the awful conflict which is only theoretically ended and the duration and main issues of which I correctly predicted in an article printed in the Sun of December 20, 1914. The League is not a remedy but, on the contrary, in the opinion of a number of competent men, may bring about results just the opposite. It is particularly regrettable that a punitive policy was adopted in framing the terms of peace because a few years hence it will be possible for nations to fight without armies, ships or guns, by weapons far more terrible, to the destructive action and range of which there is virtually no limit. Any city at any distance whatsoever from the enemy can be destroyed by him and no power on earth can stop him from doing so. If we want to avert an impending calamity and a state of things which may transform this globe into an inferno, we should push the development of flying machines and wireless transmission of energy without an instant's delay and with all the power and resources of the nation."

Tesla saw preventative possibilities in his new invention which embodied "death ray" characteristics and which was made several years after the foregoing statement was written. He saw it providing a curtain of protection which any country, no matter how small, could use as a protection against invasion. While he might offer it as a defensive weapon, however, there would be nothing to stop military men from using it as a weapon of offense.

While I did not know the nature of Tesla's plan I was convinced that it did embody many discoveries that would be of commercial value, and these were the angles he should seek to develop. I felt that if he could be induced to develop some minor phase of his work that would have immediate commercial use he could derive an income from it which would enable him to proceed with his more elaborate plans. To this end I sought to gain some insight into his thoughts, that would enable me to get a practical plan in operation. This was no secret to Tesla and he successfully parried every thrust I made.

The clearest conception I got, and that was largely from scattered remarks, and by making deductions from them, concerned a possible manner in which one phase of his curtain of protection might operate. This was a "war" angle and as such it did not interest

100-2237-29
ENCLOSURE

me, but since it involved "lightning balls," or "fire balls," I was very curious. Fire balls had always fascinated me, and I had read everything I could lay my hands on about them.

A fire ball is a strange phenomenon associated with lightning. Some of the energy of the lightning stroke appears to become locked into a ball shaped structure which may be of any size from a couple of inches to a foot in diameter. It looks like a perfect sphere, brightly incandescent and floats like a bubble, being easily carried by air currents. They may last for a short time, from a fraction of a second to many seconds. In this interval, during which they stay fairly close to the ground, they may come close to many objects without damaging them or being damaged by them. Suddenly, for no known reason, the ball explodes doing as much damage as a bomb, if close to structures, and no damage if in the open.

The fire ball looked to me like a gigantically enlarged model of the tiny electron, one of the building blocks of matter, which acts as if it were just a spherical area of space in which an amount of energy was crystallized to give it structure. I felt that if it were possible to discover how a large amount of energy was stored in this fairy bubble structure of a fire ball a new insight might be gained into the structure of the electron and other fundamental particles of matter. Also this method of storing energy could be applied to a thousand useful purposes.

When I approached Tesla with pleas along this line to develop this possible phase of his discovery he would evade direct reply by indulging in a, not always, tolerant lecture on my gullability in believing theories about the complex structure of the atom. While he had in earlier years discussed some of his experiences with fire balls in his laboratory at Colorado Springs and explained his theory of their formation, he would not in the later years permit himself to be drawn into a discussion of them as a possible part of his system. This, of course, made me suspicious that the clue was "hot" but I could be completely wrong in my conclusions. Tesla was very quick in detecting my technique when I sought to narrow down a field by trying to get him to deny statements when he was adamant to direct questions.

Tesla became familiar with the destructive characteristics of fire balls in his experiments at Colorado Springs in 1899. He produced them quite by accident and saw them, more than once, explode and shatter his tall mast and also destroy apparatus within his laboratory. The destructive action accompanying the disintegration of a fire ball, he declared, takes place with inconceivable violence.

He studied the process by which they were produced, not because he wanted to produce them but in order to eliminate the conditions in which they were created. It is not pleasant, he related, to have a fire ball explode in your vicinity for they will destroy anything they come in contact with.

It will be necessary to reconstruct his statements from very fragmentary notes and a long distance memory.

"Parasite oscillations, or circuits, within the main circuit were a source of danger from this cause. Points of resistance in the main circuit could result in minor oscillating circuits between terminals or between two points of resistance and these minor circuits would have a very much higher period of oscillation than the main circuit and could be set into oscillation by the main current of lower frequency.

"Even when the principal oscillating circuit was adjusted for the greatest efficiency of operation by the diminution of all sources of losses the fire balls continued to occur but these were due to stray high frequency charges from random earth currents.

"From these experiences it became apparent that the fire balls resulted from the interaction of two frequencies, a stray higher frequency wave imposed on the lower frequency free oscillation of the main circuit.

"As the free oscillation of the circuit builds up from the zero point to the quarter wave length node it passes through various rates of change. In a current of shorter wavelength the rates of change will be steeper. When the two currents react on each other the resultant complex will contain a wave in which there is an extremely steep rate of change, and for the briefest instant currents may move at a tremendous rate, at the rate of millions of horsepower.

"This condition acts as a trigger which may cause the total energy of the powerful longer wave to be discharged in an infinitesimally small interval of time and at a proportionately tremendously great rate of energy movement which cannot confine itself to the metal circuit and is released into surrounding space with inconceivable violence."

It is but a step, from learning how a high frequency current can explosively discharge a lower frequency current, to using the principle to design a system in which these explosions can be produced by intent. The following process appears a possible one but no evidence is available that it is the one Tesla evolved: An oscillator, such as he used to send power wirelessly around the earth at Colorado Springs, is set in operation at a frequency to which a given warship is resonant. The complex structure of a ship would provide a great number of spots in which electrical oscillations will be set up of a much higher frequency than those coursing through the ship as a whole. These parasite currents will react on the main current causing the production of fireballs which by their explosions will destroy the ship, even more effectively than the explosion of the magazine which would also take place. A second oscillator may be used to transmit the shorter wavelength current.

Somewhat later I learned the reason for Tesla's reticence to discuss details. This came shortly after Stanley Baldwin replaced Neville Chamberlin as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Tesla revealed that he had carried on negotiations with Prime Minister Chamberlin for the sale of his ray system to Great Britain for \$30,000,000 on the basis of his presentation that the device would provide complete protection for the British Isles against any enemy approaching by sea or air, and would provide an

offensive weapon to which there was no defense. He was convinced, he declared, of the sincerity of Mr. Chamberlain and his intent to adopt the device and it would have prevented the outbreak of the then threatening war, and would have made possible the continuation under the duress which this weapon would make possible - of the working agreement involving France, Germany and Britain to maintain the status quo in Europe. When Chamberlain failed, at the Munich conference, to retain this state of European equilibrium it was necessary to get rid of Chamberlain and install a new Prime Minister who could make the effort to shift one corner of the triangle from Germany to Russia. Baldwin found no virtue in Tesla's plan and preemptorily ended the negotiations.

Tesla was greatly disappointed by the collapse of his negotiations with the British Government. With it there collapsed his hopes of providing a demonstration of his most recent, and, what he considered, his most important discoveries. He did not, however, dwell on the subject; beyond the single conversation he did not mention the matter again. He did not get another chance to finance the demonstration of these discoveries.

During the period in which the negotiations were being carried on, Tesla declared, efforts had been made to steal the invention. His room had been entered and his papers examined but the thieves, or spies, left empty handed. There was no danger, he said, that his invention could be stolen for he had at no time committed any part of it to paper. He could trust his memory to preserve every fine detail of his investigations. This was true, he said, of all of his later major discoveries.

The nature of his system makes little difference now; he has gone and has taken it with him. Perhaps, if there is any communication from beyond the veil that separates this life from whatever exists hereafter, Tesla may look down upon earth's struggling mortals and find some way of dropping a hint concerning what he accomplished; but, if the situation is such that this cannot take place, then we must await until the human race produces another Tesla.

ooo

REC-34
10134

100-2237-30

June 23, 1976

Honorable William Proxmire
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-9-80 BY SP4 Jrm/ste

Dear Senator Proxmire:

This will respond to your communication of June 16th
enclosing the letter of Mr. Michael R. Neumann of Milwaukee,
Wisconsin, 53208 1835 N. 57th St.

The effects of Dr. Nikola Tesla were impounded, after
his death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department
of Justice and not by the FBI. Since we did not participate
in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings, I am unable to
furnish the information you desire.

A copy of your communication and of this reply are
being referred to the Department of Justice and the enclosure
to your communication is being returned as requested.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Enclosure

1 - Assistant Attorney General - Enclosures (2)
Civil Division

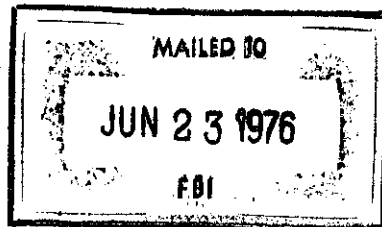
1 - Milwaukee - Enclosures (2)

1 - Office of Congressional Affairs - Enclosures (2)

NOTE: This response is consistent with past responses to
inquiries of a similar nature. Bufile 100-2237 reflects
that the Office of Alien Property took possession of
Dr. Tesla's papers following his death.

DJC:mmm/mjb (3)

Assoc. Dir. _____
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Spec. Inv. _____
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Director Sec'y _____



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

56 JUL 14 1976

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JUN 16

United States Senate

To ensure proper handling please return all correspondence TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Pat

Respectfully referred to:

Nikola Tesla

FBI

WGE m/mtc

Please respond to the attached inquiry in duplicate and return the enclosure. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bill Proxmire

U.S.S.

EXP. PROC. JUN 12 1976 30

EX-101

REC-34/00-2237-30

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WGE
CORRESPONDENCE

4
ENCLOSURE

Case

121

S. Senator Proxmire's Staff
New Senate Office Bldg
Room 5241, Washington DC 20510

Dear Sir.

I am a substitute in the
Milwaukee Public School System.

I do scientific experiments in high
voltage electricity. I have studied
all the available writings of
the dead genius Nikola Tesla
(1861 - January 7, 1943)

When Nicola Tesla died the
Federal Bureau of Investigation
came and opened the ~~the~~ safe in
his room and took the papers it
contained, to examine ~~them~~ them

ENCLOSURE

100-2237-^{orig}

30 returned
ask

for a reported secret invention of...
Possible use in II W.W.

As a ~~the~~ citizen & a
scientist I would like to
study these unpublished papers
with hope of finding new
ideas ~~into~~ for producing an alternate
source of energy. Something
that Nikola Tesla knew about
and because of his unfortunate
financial status, was not able
to develop into a working model.

Please help. -

With love in The Love
Michael Neumann

Mr. Michael R. Neumann
1835 N. 57th St.
Milwaukee, Wisc. 53208

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Records/Operations Sections

8/26, 1983

- ☐ Name Searching Unit, 4543, TL# 115
☒ ~~Service Unit, 4654, TL# 226~~
☐ Special File Room, 5991, TL# 122
☐ Forward to File Review, 5447, TL# 143
☒ Attention BELL
☒ Return to 4134, 232, 3387
 Supervisor, Room, TL#, Ext.

Type of Search Requested: (Check One)

- ☒ Restricted Search (Active Index - 5 & 20)
☐ Restricted Search (Active & Inactive Index - 5 & 30)
☐ Unrestricted (Active & Inactive Index)

Special Instructions: (Check One)

- ☐ All References (Security & Criminal)
☒ Security Search
☐ Criminal Search
☐ Main _____ References Only
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
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Subject SAVA KOSANOVIC
 Birthdate & Place _____
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SERIAL

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65-72038-8 ✓
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65-58068-3561p2 ✓
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Subj: Nikola Zula

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examined the files with Dr. Trump. The Navy has no record of Tesla's papers; no federal archives have a record of them.

Curiously, four months after the photocasts had been sent to Wright Field, Col. Ralph Doty, the chief of Military Intelligence in Washington wrote James Marham of Alien Property indicating that they had never been received: "This office is in receipt of a communication from Headquarters, Air Technical Service Command, Wright Field, requesting that we ascertain the whereabouts of the files of the late scientist, Dr. Nichola [sic] Tesla, which may contain data of great value to the above Headquarters. It has been indicated that your office might have these files in custody. If this is true, we would like to request your consent for a representative of the Air Technical Service Command to review them. In view of the extreme importance of these files to the above command, we would like to request that we be advised of any attempt by any other agency to obtain them. [Italics supplied.]

"Because of the urgency of this matter, this communication will be delivered to you by a Liaison Officer of this office in the hope of expediting the solicited information."

The "other" agency that had the files, or should have had them, was the Air Technical Service Command itself! Colonel Doty's letter, which was classified under the Espionage Act, was declassified on May 8, 1980.

This embarrassing contretemps goes unexplained in the records. Perhaps it was handled orally with the Liaison Officer.

However, on October 24, 1947, David L. Bazelon, assistant attorney general and director of the Office of Alien Property, wrote to the commanding officer of the Air Technical Service Command, Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, regarding the Tesla photocasts that had been sent by registered mail on, or about, September 11, 1945, to Colonel Holliday at the latter's request.

"Our records do not reveal that this material has been returned," said Bazelon. He sent a description and asked that it be returned.

Obviously at least one set of Tesla's papers had reached Wright Field because on November 25, 1947, there was a response to the Office of Alien Property from Colonel Duffly, chief of the Electronic Plans Section, Electronic Subdivision, Engineering Division, Air Materiel Command, Wright Field. He replied: "These reports are now in the possession of the Electronic Subdivision and are being evaluated.... He believed that the evaluation should be completed by January 1,

1948, and "At that time your office will be contacted with respect to final disposition of these papers."

There is no written record that OAP ever sought further to have the documents returned, and they were not returned.

For many years there have been rumors that these unpatented inventions or concepts of Tesla's found their way not only to the U.S. Army Air Force but to Russia and to private American defense industries, and ultimately into certain university research laboratories engaged in beam weaponry.

The Office of Alien Property experienced a very difficult problem over the years in explaining its role in connection with Tesla's papers. Between 1948 and 1978 it issued the following variations on a theme to many inquirers:

"While this Office participated in an examination of certain material owned by the late Dr. Tesla, our records do not disclose that any such material has been vested or is presently under the jurisdiction of this Office...."

"This Office has never had custody ... of any property of Nikola Tesla...."

"While the Tesla papers were in our custody...."

"Photostatic copies of certain documents, made while the papers were under our seal...."

"In 1943 this Office placed a seal on the property...."

"While the Tesla papers were in our custody... etc., etc., etc."

As for what is now Headquarters Aeronautical Systems Division (Equipment Laboratory) that performed the evaluation of Tesla's papers was deactivated several years ago. After conducting an extensive search of lists of records retired by that organization, in which we found no mention of Tesla's papers, we concluded the documents were destroyed at the time the laboratory was deactivated." [Italics supplied. Response, under the Freedom of Information Act, dated July 30, 1980.]

Tesla's original papers, and the remaining models of his inventions—his magnifying transmitter, robot boats, early tube lighting, induction motors, turbine, exhibits shown at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, such as the "Egg of Columbus," and others—left America in 1952 for Yugoslavia. His ashes were sent later. The artifacts may now be seen at the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, a dignified-looking building with a broad, well-proportioned facade at No. 51 Proleterskih

THE MISSING PAPERS ↔ 280

Brigada, an avenue renamed after the war, but formerly known under the monarchy as Crown Street. The museum bears a plaque on a low wall, printed in the old Cyrillic alphabet.

Here Tesla's English writings have been translated into Serbo-Croatian—except, as the archivist admits, for the "unimportant" material, which remains, just as he wrote it, in the language of his adopted country.



The Legacy

The fact that Tesla's research notes and papers have not been easily available for western scientists has not, of course, meant that Teslaian research is dead. On the contrary, the very mystery surrounding some of his unproved claims has served to goad numerous scientists into trying to duplicate his experiments. And since his aspirations were virtually limitless, there has always been a chance that the rewards of success would not be inconsiderable. But the single greatest stimulus to try to follow in Tesla's footsteps doubtless remains the example of the man himself—his stunning record of achievement and the enduring fascination of his mind. As one admiring German writer put it, "Tesla went beyond the borders of his exact science to foretell what lies in the future ... a modern Prometheus who dared reach for the stars."

Although a comprehensive summary of the state of Tesla-inspired research today would be beyond either the scope of this book or the intent of its author, no account of the inventor's life would be complete without at least some indication of what has become of a few of his major preoccupations. The record, as one might expect, is both mixed and incomplete, but it is no less impressive for that.

To begin, then, with Tesla's experiments with ball lightning: He had no idea what ball lightning might be useful for when he first encountered it in his Colorado Springs research; to him it was a nuisance, but it demanded an explanation. And so he set about determining the mode of formation of the strange fireballs and learned to produce them artificially.

The technical explanation runs like this: In the highly resonant transformer secondary comprising his magnifying transmitter, the entire energy accumulated in the excited circuit, instead of requiring a quarter period for transformation from static to kinetic, could spend itself in less time, at hundreds of thousands of horsepower. Thus, for example, Tesla produced artificial fireballs by suddenly causing the impressed oscillations to be more rapid than free ones of the second-

any. This shifted the point of maximum electrical pressure below the elevated terminal capacity, and a ball of fire would leap great distances. Yet strangely enough, modern plasma physicists with the best equipped laboratories, have failed to produce plasmas with anything near the stability of the true ball-lightning spheres that he created.

Why the fascination with this problem? First, of course, because it is there, an unknown. But second because among other uses, it may hold a vital key in the international race to achieve controlled nuclear fusion—potentially the greatest power source in history. Among those long interested in ball-lightning research are Peter Kapitza, the great Russian physicist; Lambert Dolphin and his colleagues in the radio physics laboratory at SRI International; Dr. Robert W. Bass of Brigham Young University; and Robert Golka, with whom Bass has collaborated on research.

Golka, a Massachusetts physicist, Tesla disciple, and lightning experimenter, has pursued the ephemeral fireball with the fervor of a hunter of snakes. Like Tesla in Colorado, he has done his research alone in a remote western laboratory in the Utah salt flats, and like Tesla, he has struggled to win the kind of federal support that usually goes only to enormous institutions or corporations.

In the largest hangar at the far end of the ghost base at Wendover, Utah, which was built by the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, big spotlights are often burning as Golka conducts lightning tests. Here, under highest security in the 1940's, the B-29 Enola Gay was housed and outfitted for delivering the first atomic bombs to Hiroshima.

Golka made two trips to the Tesla Museum to pore over the inventor's then unpublished notes and concentrated on replicating exactly as he could in the old air base hangar the magnifying transmitter that Tesla had built in 1899 when investigating the lightning storms of Pike's Peak.

"He [Tesla] was 'way ahead of anything we have today in the equipment he built," Golka says. "Such as the high-powered switches and spark gap switches. The knowledge has been lost, we don't know how he did it. Some of it was in the diaries, but he kept much of this stuff in his head."

Golka built a magnifying transmitter at his "Project Tesla" that would discharge 22 million volts, creating almost twice as powerful a chain-lightning storm as the maestro himself had produced at Colorado Springs.

The relevance of ball lightning to fusion research has to do with the problem of confining plasma. The heart of the most common type of experimental fusion reaction involves taking isotopic hydrogen nuclei and both accelerating and superheating it until the hydrogen nuclei fuse to make helium nuclei, releasing, in the process, staggering amounts of energy. Along the way, while the hydrogen is being charged with vast amounts of kinetic and thermal energy, it enters an imperfectly understood material state known as plasma. "In the penultimate stages of the process, before fusion begins, the besetting problem is to maintain the plasma's coherence, to confine it within some kind of invisible electromagnetic 'bottle.'"

Since the strongest geometric shape is a sphere, Golka believes that ball lightning offers the best potential for containment of the unstable mass. He describes the odd lightning as "a glowing sphere of a variety of colors, a half-inch in diameter or as big as a grapefruit, and resembling an onion in its 'layers and layers of alternate charged particles, positive and negative.' It may bounce along through buildings, fall into water and set it boiling, and sometimes, as at the Hill Air Force Base in Utah, it may knock out the most sophisticated electronic equipment. In the summer of 1978, with the use of CO-2 laser beams, he finally managed to produce "bead" lightning, which he believes to be a form of ball lightning, and to photograph it in sequential frames."

He then sought support from the U.S. Department of Energy for a major program of research for which he proposed to use a device called a pyrosphere, employing five laser beams to create thermonuclear fusion. In a "Fireball Fusion Reactor" only nonradioactive helium is created and, according to Golka, mathematical models indicate it can reach and hold temperatures above a billion degrees.

He also proposed to the Air Force another Teslaian concept, a charged particle beam, but again one designed to employ laser technology. Such beam guns, he believes, would have a range of

"Until recent years plasma had no major industrial importance but was merely a laboratory curiosity. Richard L. Bernstein, executive vice president of International Plasma Corp., believes that the first practical application of plasmas came in the 19th century when 'the glowing plasma produced by a Tesla coil was used to locate leaks in glass vacuum flasks.'"

Tesla ideas are also involved in other aspects of fusion research. Superconducting magnetic coils, cooled to a few degrees above absolute zero, are used in magnetic confinement devices, and, in a newly developed inert process, hydrogen fuel pellets are being bombarded by high-energy particle beams.

6,000 miles and could melt and destroy ICBM-type missiles in the air. With a Tesla coil three times the size of his combined coils, Golka believed he could generate 200 million volts of electricity.

But he inherited the usual Teshan problems of a loner, and as he said, "The walls fall in on me when I work for corporations." His work reached a point where it could no longer progress with improvised equipment, but called for enormous investments. His competitors were large corporations and leading universities engaged in the nuclear-fusion race; and even some of the latter were being cut off from their federal grants. They too were deeply into laser technology, although Golka claims his system is different and unique. By no means the only scientist to have attempted to carry forward Tesla's work with ball lightning, he undoubtedly has been one of the most undervalued.*

Russia's Kapitza, who shared the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics with Arno Penzias and Robert W. Wilson of America for his work in magnetism and the behavior of matter at extremely low temperatures, acknowledges his debt to Tesla. "The efficient generation of super-high-frequency oscillations and their conversion back to direct-current electrical energy," he writes, "discloses possible solutions to the problem of transmitting electrical energy ... in free space. The transmission setup will, of course, be similar to that already considered but, instead of a wave guide, a highly directional beam must be used which, as is well-known, only at short wavelengths will diverge like Such a setup for the transmission of electrical energy, firstly thought by N. Tesla many years ago, has already been discussed. ... Although ... possible in principle, it is tied up with the solution of a series of complicated engineering problems and therefore it can be implemented in practice only in such special situations in which other methods of energy transmission are inapplicable (for example, when energy must be supplied to a satellite)."

In this field of wireless energy transmission, so directly concerned with the space race, there is progress nearer home. Richard Dickinson, who heads the Microwave Power Transmission project for Cal Tech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the desert near Barstow, California, traces his inspiration to the early work of Tesla. The concept of bringing electricity to Earth from an orbiting solar-power system is

*Lambert Dolphin says of Golka's replica of the Colorado Springs Tesla coil: "It is spectacular indeed, to either scientist or layman. I hope it ends up in a museum such as the Smithsonian where it can be appreciated." He too is a proponent of further research in ball lightning.

microwaves is daring, costly, romantic, and thoroughly in the style of the maestro.

"We beamed power from our transmitter at Goldstone a distance of one mile," Dickinson said of the NASA project initiated in the mid-seventies. "All of the microwave energy that fell within our target (of which we could only collect a portion with our existing apparatus), we converted 82.5 percent to useful direct current. Thirty-four thousand watts of direct current output carried a distance of one mile. We are well pleased. The next step is to look further into the technology and needs of the satellite power system of the future."

William C. Brown of the Raytheon Company, who developed the rectenna used in this microwave-power research, also attributes the idea of sending electricity by radio waves to Tesla's pioneering in the fundamentals of radio broadcasting and wireless power transmission.

Theoretically, a city the size of New York could be supplied with five billion watts on a winter day by enormous satellite structures in the sky that would orbit synchronously with Earth at a height of 22,300 miles. But admittedly, the cost of such floating power stations would be many billions of dollars, and they would be highly vulnerable to enemy killer satellites. In the event of war.

Brookhaven National Laboratory, located just to the northeast of Tesla's old Wardenclyffe site at Shoreham, also feels a close link with the inventor through the advanced high-energy work being conducted at the laboratory. In 1976 it paid homage to him in a ceremony, and the Yugoslav government sent a plaque to be placed at the still-standing Wardenclyffe laboratory.

Canada, too, has long been a bastion of Tesla Energy System advocates, and because of the country's rich hydroelectric sources, through-the-Earth transmission—if it worked—could be a boon to areas of power shortage.

But—will it work? Several projects have been planned, and some partially implemented. In Canada, central Minnesota, and most recently in Southern California—to "pump" hydroelectric power wirelessly through the Earth to an area of need, employing the Tesla system as it is understood.* The U.S. Department of Energy has often been asked to fund projects based on Tesla's system.

Unfortunately, there is no evidence that the system ever worked for Tesla, and none that it could work for anyone else. One of the inventor's problems was that he improperly extended into the electromagnetic domain fluid and fluid-mechanical analogies. Tesla's patent No. 787,412 provides for the Earth to be excited by a carefully

valued wavelength to establish a standing wave condition. Tesla believed the propagation path fell along a diameter. But according to much knowledge developed since 1899, the propagation path would not be along a diameter but, rather, along an ellipsoidal arc somewhere between the diameter and the spherical surface.

A fundamental aspect of wave propagation of power is that no power is transmitted if the wave is standing; power is transmitted solely with a traveling component. Boundary layer propagation, i.e., the mode of lossless propagation of waves at the boundary of two differing media (such as earth and sky), is a viable concept. However, the boundary plane must be smooth and the waves must be properly launched. At the frequencies Tesla was using, such launching apparatus would be an enormous structure. In examining the photographs of his experimental station at Colorado Springs, it is apparent to experts that he did not employ apparatus essential to the launching of such waves.

Tesla probably was mistaken at Colorado Springs in his interpretation of the lightning storms which he observed traveling away from him (eastwardly) across the plains, producing maxima and minima effects upon his instruments. This he interpreted as standing waves being set up in the Earth by the traveling storm, with the crests of the waves passing through his location as the storms advanced. It is believed he was seeing an interference effect caused by the radiating surface of the frontal range of mountains to the west of his station. The results would have been the same on his instruments.

Dr. Walt, formerly senior scientist at the Environmental Research Laboratories, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in Colorado, describes himself as a "firm skeptic" of the Tesla theory. "The concept that electromagnetic energy penetrates through the earth," he says, "is valid only if the frequency is sufficiently low and if the distances are small. It's all tied up with 'skin-effect' phenomena; that means that the field is confined to the surface of a good conductor as in metallic wave guide."

Dr. Walt even goes so far as to suggest that Tesla never really accepted the fact that electromagnetic waves could transport energy through the air. "Instead he thought of the earth itself as a conveyor and also thought of the possibility of a return conductor at heights of 15 miles above sea level. The parallel of this idea to the earth-ionosphere wave guide at extremely low frequencies is striking (see *IEEE Journals of Oceanic Engineering*, Vol. OE-2, No. 2, April 1977). Also his proposed resonance of the system might be interpreted as the first disclosure of the earth-ionosphere cavity oscillations that have

been associated from the early 1960s with W. O. Schumann, N. Christofilos, and J. Galejs, among others."

With respect to wireless communication, the U.S. Navy's Project Sanguine/Seafarer of recent years has evolved from Tesla's Colorado experiments. In a thermonuclear war, conventional radio communication probably would be disrupted at certain heights and wavelengths. America's atomic submarine fleet might then be without a means of receiving messages. The U.S. Navy, seeing this danger, turned back to Tesla's nineteenth-century suggestion of employing 10 Hz signals (ELF or extra low frequency), to circle the globe and penetrate the deepest waters.

One of the headier speculations concerning Tesla's science is a suggestion that Russia has been employing his theories on weather modification to interfere with the jet stream, causing droughts and extremes of hot and cold weather. However unlikely the charge, it is true that Tesla did do a good deal of theorizing (but very little experimentation) on weather control.

He wrote, for example, on the possible use of radio-controlled missiles and explosives to break up tornadoes and the use of "lightning of a certain kind" to trigger rainfall. Of the former he said, "It would not be difficult to provide special automata for this purpose, carrying explosive charges, liquid air or other gas, which could be put into action, automatically or otherwise, and which would create a sudden pressure or suction, breaking up the whirl. The missiles themselves might be made of material capable of spontaneous ignition." His proposal included a lengthy mathematical formula.

As with much modern scientific exploration inspired by the maestro, the returns are still not in on weather changing. Scientist Frederic Jueneman, "Innovative Notebook" columnist for *Industrial Research* magazine, calls attention to the fact that Dr. Robert Heilwell and John Katsoulakis of Stanford University's Radio Science Laboratory, demonstrated that very low frequency radio waves can cause oscillations in the magnetosphere. With a 20-km antenna and a 5 kHz transmitter in the Antarctic, they found that the earth's magnetosphere could be modulated to cause high energy particles to cascade into our atmosphere, and by turning the signal on or off they could start or stop the energy flow.

"The theoretical implication suggested by their work," says Jueneman, "is that global weather control can be attained by the injection of relatively small 'signals' into the Van Allen belts—something like a super-transistor effect."

But Jueneman's speculations go further and are eminently

worthy of Tesla: "If Tesla's resonance effects, as shown by the Stanford team, can control enormous energies by minuscule triggering signals, then by an extension of this principle we should be able to affect the field environment of the very stars in the sky... With godlike arrogance, we someday may yet direct the stars in their courses."

No biography of Tesla would be complete without mention of his bright following of amateur physicists who built Tesla coils for their personal research, endeavoring to replicate his electrical magic; and the young inventors who pore over his basic patents and still find inspiration from them.

Durbin C. Cox, a Wisconsin physicist who has pondered Tesla's published writings, has built two Tesla coils, the second of 10 million volts. The reasons: "My own personal interest in high voltage engineering, especially in the field of high frequency transformers; to further my studies on the laboratory production of ball lightning; and because the University of Wisconsin at Madison asked me to submit a Tesla coil in their bi-annual Engineering Exposition in the spring of 1981." He and friends built one Tesla coil for a Hollywood studio for lightning effects, which has been a common use of them.

Electrical engineer Leland Anderson has summarized the major points in design that a coil builder might gain from reading Tesla's Colorado Springs Notes:

1. The Qs of the primary and secondary must be as high as practicable.
 2. The Qs of the primary and secondary should be equal.
 3. The length of the secondary winding should be one-quarter of the effective operating wavelength.
 4. The technique of using an "extra coil" tank circuit (or a variation of it) in the secondary to magnify the voltage should be used.
- "With these criteria in mind," he says, "the builder will find that hundreds of turns are not necessary for the secondary winding to achieve high voltages."

Last but not least, what about Tesla's death/disintegrator rays? Were his concepts sound? If they were found useful by the U.S. Army Air Force research team, whose top-secret project was rumored to have had the code name "Project Nick," it may be safely assumed that instead of being "destroyed," as reported, his papers are still highly classified.

Dr. Trump's evaluation and Swezey's assessment of Tesla's "secret weapons" have, however, received updated concurrence by

Lambert Dolphin, assistant director of the Radio Physics Laboratory at SRI International, who has studied the inventor's work and his ball-lightning research for two decades. He points out that the fields of knowledge of both physics and electrical engineering have grown exponentially since about 1930.

"Whole libraries are now required just to keep track of all the theory and experience that have unfolded since Tesla's time," he says. "Our mathematical and practical understanding of electricity, magnetism, electromagnetic theory, and radio communications has continued to grow explosively ever since 1950, or should I say 1970!"

Tesla, Dolphin believes, "may have had intuitive insight into lasers and high-energy particle beams as well as ultra-high voltage phenomena, but now that we understand all the physics much more, we can easily evaluate many of his extravagant later-life claims."

In fact, there is no good evidence to suggest that Tesla anticipated lasers. His "teleforce rays" seem to have been concerned exclusively with high-energy particle beams. We still do not know precisely how he intended them to work, although, says Dolphin, the available evidence suggests that Tesla may not have paid sufficient attention to how greatly such beams may be absorbed or dispersed by molecules and atoms in the air. In any case, even if we did understand Tesla's intentions more clearly, we should be hard put to compare them to the current state of the art, much of which is hidden under high security classifications.

Nevertheless, Tesla's work with high voltages to accelerate charged particles does seem to have been decidedly in what is now the mainstream of physical research. "In this field," says Dolphin, "he anticipated modern linear and circular nuclear accelerators. Such machines today have energy levels of tens of billions of electron volts or at least 1,000 times greater energy levels than Tesla ever attained."

"I am sure his magnifying transmitters were spectacular... He probably generated some interesting arcs and sparks that were what we now study as plasmas. The containment of plasmas is a huge area of modern physics. For example... to see if small amounts of matter can be turned into immense amounts of electrical power in carefully contained plasmas." But Tesla's early discoveries and inventions, he concludes, were indeed ingenious and ahead of their time.

As this book goes to press, the Pentagon is studying the creation of a new branch of the armed services, to be known as the U.S. Space Command, whose primary arsenal will consist of laser and particle-beam weapons fired from "space battleships." In prose not

unlike Tesla's own, a Department of Defense fact sheet compares particle beams to "directed lightning bolts"—although without explicitly admitting that such a weapon has in fact been developed.

It is difficult to assess the current state of the beam-weapons program because virtually everything about it is heavily classified. Apparently the technology involved has proved to be complex and difficult, raising questions about the project's feasibility, but many experts nevertheless seem to be hard at work on the problem. At the same time, the activities of the other nations in this area have been monitored carefully by agencies of the federal government. Indeed the possibility of creating a family of particle-beam weapons has been a subject of serious discussion in this country for at least the past twenty-five years, and it is, in my opinion, of no little significance that as long ago as 1947 the Military Intelligence Service identified the writings about a particle-beam among Tesla's scientific papers as being "of extreme importance."

Since he had no laboratory in the later years of his life, Tesla was unable to develop his ideas. But it is undeniable that he described in general terms half a century ago what may prove to be one of the main weapons of the Space Age. And to the end of his days, Tesla the pacifist hoped that such knowledge would be used, not for war among Earthlings, but for interplanetary communication with our neighbors in space, of whose existence he felt certain.



Bibliographical Essay

Some of Tesla's own writing—lectures, articles, patents, papers, and letters—is now available in the United States. His most important lectures and his brief autobiography, in bound volumes, are listed in the prologue to the reference notes.

Citation of biographies of Tesla by O'Neill, Hunt, and Dreper, and others may be found in the reference notes. The O'Neill manuscript and the Swezey Collection are to be found at the Smithsonian Institution, Dibner Library.

Serious Tesla scholars will wish to consult the annotated Dr. Nikola Tesla Bibliography by J. T. Ratlaiff, and L. I. Anderson (San Carlos, California, Regnason Press, 1979), for it contains some 3,000 sources of writings by and about Tesla. "Priority in the invention of Radio, Tesla v. Marconi," by Leland Anderson may be obtained through the Antique Wireless Association, Monograph New Series No. 4.

A new means of analyzing Tesla's inventions is provided in Dr. Nikola Tesla: *Selected Patent Wrappers from The National Archives*, by J. T. Ratlaiff (Millbrae, Ca., Tesla Book Co., 1980). These "file wrappers" provide explanations and correspondence between the patentee and the Patent Office, to overcome objections raised by the examiner.

Tesla's *Colorado Springs Notes, 1899-1900*, published in 1978 by the Tesla Museum, is available through Noll, Terzije, 27, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The Library of Congress Manuscripts Division contains microfilm correspondence between Tesla and George Scherff, Robert Underwood Johnson, Mark Twain, members of the Morgan family, George Westinghouse, and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company.

In addition original correspondence and photographs may be found at the Butler Library, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Columbia University, including letters between Tesla and Johnson, Scherff, and

July 26, 1979

Dear Mr. Webster:

HW/3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-81 BY SP1/SS/MLC

I am writing this letter in regard to some papers you have in your possession by Nikola Tesla.

I have for some time now been studying the works of Mr. Tesla and I am involved in the research and further development of his efforts. I have in my possession a copy of almost everything that was ever written by him.

However I have read that on the day following his death (he died the night of January 7th, 1943, so probably January 8th, 1943) the Federal Bureau of Investigation went to where Mr. Tesla had been staying - the Hotel New Yorker, New York City, New York and collected all notes and papers that he had with him there.

To further my studies and hopefully complete them it would be deeply appreciated if you would send me a copy of all the notes, papers, books, drawings etc. that were found there.

Thank you,

Douglas Magyari.

DOUGLAS MAGYARI
1606 MILLARD ST
MILLARD, MO 64113

August 6, 1979

OUTSIDE SOURCE

1571
Mr. Douglas Magyari
1606 Millard
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 JRM/ste

Dear Mr. Magyari:

Your recent letter requesting information concerning
Dr. Nikola Tesla has been received.

The effects of Dr. Tesla were impounded, after his
death, by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of
Justice and not by the FBI. We have no preprinted material
available for public distribution regarding Dr. Tesla. How-
ever, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act
(Title 5, United States Code, Section 552), requests have been
made in the past regarding your topic and there may be docu-
ments available to you under Title 28--Code of Federal
Regulations.

If you are interested in seeking such documents
under the Freedom of Information Act, you should make a
separate inquiry, clearly marking the envelope and letter as a
Freedom of Information Act request, and direct it to the
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9th Street and
Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20535. In the
letter you must request documents regarding the specific topic
of interest to you.

Sincerely yours

William L. Bailey
Assistant Director

REC-79

EX-131

100-2237-32

2 AUG 7 1979

MAILED 11
AUG 6 1979
FBI

Assoc. Dir. 1
Dep. AD Adm. Room 6958
Dep. AD Inv. (This correspondence response may engender a future FOIA in-
Asst. Dir.: quiry.)
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Intell. NOTE: Based upon available information, correspondent is not
Laboratory identifiable in Bufiles.
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgnt. BHM:lch (4)
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.

66 AUG 31 1979
WLB/mab

RECEIVED
AUG 8 1979

Mr. Bresson

2/25/80

David S. Byerly

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE
REGARDING DR. NIKOLA TESLA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/ste

PURPOSE:

To reduce time spent on handling of requests for information on captioned subject and to promote uniformity of disclosure.

DETAILS:

A search of FBIHQ central records indices reflects that Dr. Nikola Tesla is carried as the subject of Bufile 100-2237. Virtually all information in this file is inquiry-type correspondence. For purposes of FOIA releases, copies of this material have not been made and requesters have been so advised. Copies of the remaining material in the file totalling 29 pages, however, has been processed for disclosure. Numerous requesters have sought information relating to Dr. Tesla under the FOIA. Therefore, it is recommended that the disclosure documents maintained in Bufile 190-16504-4 be considered the preprocessed release appropriate for responses by the Initial Processing Unit for any further requests for information on this subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Initial Processing Unit, FOIPA Branch, Records Management Division, add captioned case to their list of preprocessed cases and handle any future requests for such information.

- 1 - Mr. Underwood
- 1 - Miss Helen Ann M. Near

→ 100-2237
190-16504

100-2237-
NOT RECORDED
13 MAR 5 1980

110
13 4 MAR 1980
13 4 MAR 1980

100-2237

Tom -

It is my understanding that every case which is completed through disclosure is "preprocessed".

IPU's Reading Room maintains only those "preprocessed" cases which have been deemed to have sufficient public interest to warrant inclusion in the Reading Room.

The question, therefore, is: Does the Tesla material fit the criteria for inclusion in the FOIA Reading Room?

I think not. The
fmr

(Rev. 10/10/79)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERNAL ROUTING ACTION SLIP

TO	BLDG.	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION	TL#	BLDG.	ROOM	NAME/TITLE/ORGANIZATION	TL#
	JEH	7142	Mr. Colwell	235			DISCLOSURE SECTION	
	JEH	7110	Mr. Boynton	235	JEH	6995	Mr. Bresson/Nommensen	314
	JEH	7110	Mr. Moore	235	JEH	6994	Mr. Lewis/Nommensen	314
	JEH	5829	Mr. Bailey/Rogers	211	JEH	6927	CHIEF, UNIT A/Secretary	314
	JEH	5829	Mr. O'Brien/Lass	211			SA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6296	Mr. Flanders/Woleslagle	314	JEH	6959	CHIEF, UNIT B	314
			OPERATIONS SECTION				SA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6992	Mr. Ervin/Poston	314			RA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6993	Mr. Tierney/Poston	314	JEH	6975	CHIEF, UNIT C/Secretary	314
	JEH	6280	CHIEF, TAR/Secretary	314			SA: _____ Team	
			SA: _____				RA: _____ Team	
			Attn: _____				SA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6987	CHIEF, FIELD COOR.				RA: _____ Team	
			SA: _____		JEH	6786	CHIEF, UNIT E	314
			Attn: _____				SA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6958	CHIEF, IPU/Secretary	314			RA: _____ Team	
			SA: _____		JEH	6387	CHIEF, UNIT F/Secretary	314
			Attn: _____				SA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6363	File Duplication	314			RA: _____ Team	
	JEH	6268	Tickler/Index Group	314				
	JEH	6992	Leave Clerk	314				
	JEH	6348	Word Processing Center	314				
	JEH	6380	DCRU	314				
			Attn: _____					

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-82 BY SP12345678

I would prefer
IPU being alerted

that any request for Tesla file be
referred directly to Hershey, whereupon
she would see that appropriate
action is made

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| ☐ RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT | ☐ LOG | ☐ NECESSARY ACTION |
| ☐ SEE REMARKS ON REVERSE | ☐ FILE | ☐ COORDINATE |
| ☐ MAKE COPIES (NO.) | ☐ SEE ME | ☐ PER INQUIRY |
| ☐ RETURN (BY) | ☐ CALL ME | ☐ INFORMATION |

FROM Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Branch	BLDG.	ROOM
THOMAS H. BRESSON SECTION CHIEF	PHONE	DATE

To: Betsey
Nietem
don

FORM DOJ-359A
8-1-74 DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Servs. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director's Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Bresson

DATE: 2/25/80

FROM : David S. Byerly

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE
REGARDING DR. NIKOLA TESLA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-3-80 BY SP4 Jm/rte

PURPOSE:

To reduce time spent on handling of requests for information on captioned subject and to promote uniformity of disclosure.

DETAILS:

A search of FBIHQ central records indices reflects that Dr. Nikola Tesla is carried as the subject of Bufile 100-2237. Virtually all information in this file is inquiry-type correspondence. For purposes of FOIA releases, copies of this material have not been made and requesters have been so advised. Copies of the remaining material in the file totalling 29 pages, however, has been processed for disclosure. Numerous requesters have sought information relating to Dr. Tesla under the FOIA. Therefore, it is recommended that the disclosure documents maintained in Bufile 190-16504-4 be considered the preprocessed release appropriate for responses by the Initial Processing Unit for any further requests for information on this subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Initial Processing Unit, FOIPA Branch, Records Management Division, add captioned case to their list of preprocessed cases and handle any future requests for such information.

- 1 - Mr. Underwood
- 1 - Miss Helen Ann M. Near

100-2237
190-16504-4
APR 25 1980

MAR 27 1980

eah:vas (7)



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

~~FEDERAL GOVERNMENT~~

9 FEB 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT: Papers Recovered on the Death of Nicola Tesla (U)

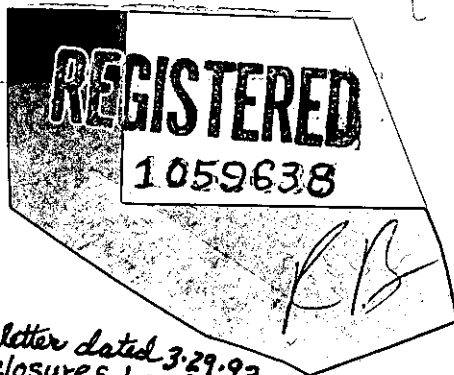
(U) We understand that the FBI may have possession of a number of papers found after the death of Nicola Tesla in 1943. Nicola Tesla was a brilliant electrical engineer (i.e. the Tesla Coil) who was a pioneer in various aspects of electrical transmission phenomena.

(C) We believe that certain of Tesla's papers may contain basic principles which would be of considerable value to certain ongoing research within the DoD. It would be very helpful to have access to his papers.

(U) Since we have really no idea of the possible volume of these papers, we would be happy to provide a researcher who could assist you in reducing the magnitude of the search. If there are further questions, I am the point of contact within the DoD and can be reached at 695-6364 or 695-7417.

Allen J. MacLaren

Allen J. MacLaren
LtColonel, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems



FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-8-93 BY 9803 RDD/lmb
FOIPA No. 356,608
362,001

100-2237-33

er DoD letter dated 3-29-93
with Enclosures 1 and 2
all DoD info is unclassified
DoD referenced FOI/PA# 356,608 and
362,001

4/8/93 9803 RDD/lmb

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-14-92 BY SP1 JCK/MK2

MAR 12 1981

Classified by: DUSDRE/S&SS
Declassify on: February 1987

DECLASSIFIED BY 1048 bsm/gum
ON 1-27-93
Per Army letter 5-25-89
291860

CORRESPONDENCE

ack 50 MAR 30 1981
MLV:peb

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 10, 1981

Lt. Col. Allan J. MacLaren, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-14-92 BY SP1 ASK/mce

Dear Colonel MacLaren:

Your memorandum of February 9 requesting access to the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla which might be in our files has been referred to my office for reply.

A preliminary review of our files indicates that the FBI did not participate in the handling of Dr. Tesla's belongings following his death in New York City in January, 1943. His papers were examined by representatives of the Office of Alien Property, the Navy Department and the Office of Scientific Research and Development. In February, 1943, the papers apparently were released to Mr. Sava H. Rosanovic, Dr. Tesla's nephew and the administrator of his estate. Mr. Rosanovic's address at that time was 112 Central Park South, New York, New York.

A complete search of our indices is being made to determine if we have any information that might be useful to you. You will be notified of the results of this search at the earliest possible date.

DE-110

Sincerely,

15/
Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

MAR 12 1981

- 1 - H. E. Allen (FOIPA) - Enc.
1 - Mr. Young - Enc.
1 - Mr. Marquise - Enc.

NOTE: Reply discussed with H. E. Allen, FOIPA, RMD, who has handled similar requests for information concerning Dr. Tesla. In numerous previous responses we have said that the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice impounded Dr. Tesla's papers after his death. However, the Office of Foreign Litigation, Civil Division, indicated that Dr. Tesla's papers are not in their possession.

MLV:peb (6)

MAILED 3
MAR 10 1981
FBI

Sec AD Inv.
Sec AD Adm.
Sec AD LES
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs.
Crim. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgnt.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

Lt. Col. A. J. MacLaren

NOTE: On February 9, 1981, Col. MacLaren wrote to us inquiring about the scientific papers of Dr. Nikola Tesla. In a return letter of March 9, we informed him that a thorough review of our files would be made in search of the information he requested. This was done and he is being informed of the results. Tesla's papers have been the subject of numerous inquiries by various individuals and organizations since his death. FBI received over 20 FOIA requests on this matter during the period 1978-1980. Matter coordinated with FOIA Section, RMD.

March 20, 1981

TL
Lt. Col. A. J. McLaren
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems
Office of the Under Secretary
of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20361

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-14-82 BY SP4SKM/V2

Dear Colonel McLaren:

A complete search of our retrievable files concern-
ing Dr. Nikola Tesla shows that all notes and material in his
immediate possession at the time of his death on January 7, 1943,
were placed in the custody of the Alien Property Custodian
under seal by the United States Government. These materials
have never been in the care or custody of the FBI.

On January 26 and 27, 1943, Federal authorities made
a thorough review of the effects of Dr. Tesla to determine if
any ideas of significant value to the United States war effort
could be found. His effects were examined at the Manhattan
Warehouse and Storage Company at 52nd and 7th Avenue, New York,
New York, where they apparently were taken after his death. Par-
ticipating in this examination were representatives from the
New York and Washington Offices of the Alien Property Custodian, the
Office of Scientific Research and Development at the Massa-
chusetts Institute of Technology, the Office of Naval Intel-
ligence, and United States Naval Research. The FBI did not
participate in this examination. (65-47953 section 1)

It was the considered opinion of a spokesman of those
examiners "that there exist among Dr. Tesla's papers and posses-
sions no scientific notes, descriptions of hitherto unrevealed
methods or devices, or actual apparatus which could be of
significant value to this country or which would constitute a
hazard in unfriendly hands." There was thought to be no
technical or military reason why further custody of the property
should be maintained. However, our files indicate that certain
papers, which were regarded as typical of Nikola Tesla's writings
and thoughts in the period of 1925-1942, were removed for
the purpose of being placed to the Office of the Alien Property
Custodian. (65-47953 section 1)

Mr. Young
1 - Mr. Marquise
1 - Mr. Finzel

MLV:peb (8)

mlv:peb

WET

Exec AD Inv. _____
Exec AD Adm. _____
Exec AD LES _____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Servs. _____
Crim. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Insp. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
NW 48747 DocId:32890902 Page 151

V-38 DE-112

REC'D

MAR 25 1981

(SEE NOTE PAGE THREE)

To be fixed
MLV

Lt. Col. A. J. MacLaren

A memo dated October 17, 1945, from our New York Office said that at that time Dr. Tesla's effects remained at the Manhattan Storage Warehouse in some 75 packing boxes and trunks under seal by the New York Department of Taxation. The rental for this storage, approximately \$13 per month, was being paid by Charlotte Muzar, 134 East 63rd Street, New York, New York, who was listed as an agent for Sara Kesanovich, Dr. Tesla's nephew and administrator of his estate. (65-47953-14)

On October 26, 1945, Private Bloyce Fitzgerald, U. S. Army, a young scientist who had been Tesla's protege, called in person at our New York Field Office. With him were Private David M. Pratt, Lt. Herbert O. Schatt and Lt. R. E. Houle from a research development unit at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. These men carried a letter signed by Brigadier General L. C. Craigie, Chief Engineering Division, Wright Field, requesting that the FBI allow the bearers of the letter access to the effects of Nikola Tesla. (65-47953-15)

It was explained to this military contingent that the FBI had no jurisdiction over Tesla's effects, and they were referred to the Office of the Alien Property Custodian. Bureau files do not indicate whether the men ever examined Tesla's belongings. (65-47953-15)

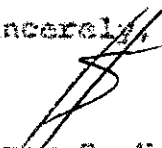
The Tesla effects remained in rooms 5J and 5L of the Manhattan Storage Company. In the 1950s, FBI Agents were told by company management that the only recorded visit had been made by "Federal authorities" in January, 1943. The floor supervisor recalled that the men had taken numerous photographs. His description of the equipment used would tend to show that a microfilm reproduction was made of the papers of the deceased. (65-47953-27)

Our files do not reflect any pertinent information on the Tesla materials since that date. Their current whereabouts or condition are not reflected in our files.

For further information regarding this matter, you may wish to contact the Office of the Alien Property Custodian and the other Federal agencies mentioned above.

I hope that we have been of assistance to you.

Sincerely,


Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

(CONTINUED - OVER)



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

1 APR 1981

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Young,

Thank you very much for your letters of March 10 and March 20, 1981, in response to our request re Dr. Tesla. We very much appreciate the effort that must have gone into this. On behalf of the Deputy Under Secretary (Strategic and Space Systems), Dr. S. L. Zeiberg, I would like to thank you and the people who spent their time searching out the relevant data.

Sincerely,

Allan J. MacLaren
Colonel, USAF
Military Assistant
Strategic and Space Systems

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-14-82 BY SP5/SC/MLK

Per DOD letter dated 3/29/93
with ENCLOSURES 1 and 2
ALL DOD info is unclassified.
DOD referenced FOIPA #s 356,608 and 362,001
4/8/93 9803 RDD/lmb

DE-110 100-2237-36

16 APR 10 1981

No acknowledgment necessary

10 French
66 MAY 11 1981
Vines

FBI
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-8-93 BY 9803 RDD/lmb
FOIPA No. 356,608
362,001

Off. of Cong. and Pub. Aff.

21 July 1981
ONNA POINT

D
Director of the FBI
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-19-82 BY SP12SK/mre~~

OK
While attending college, I came across an article about the electrical genius, Nicolai Tesla, *Nikola* Mr. Tesla was an electrical genius with such peers as EDISON and WESTINGHOUSE. Tesla designed the basic generator and was the first man to introduce alternating current to the people. The article, written in an underground San Francisco newspaper, stated that Tesla also worked with electromagnetic waves and supposedly built a plant that could harness the electromagnetic waves out of the earth's atmosphere sufficiently enough to use them as a source of electricity. The article stated that Tesla built such a plant and lit up a city street 150 miles away by sending the electromagnetism via radio waves. This method is presently being used in electronic warfare. After that, the article stated that the FBI confiscated his plans and buried them in your archives. Their reasoning was that such a free form of energy would knock out a big chunk of the oil, coal, and nuclear forms of energy and their contributions to the economy (money for research and employment). All I want to know is if there is any truth to this story and if so what was the FBI's reasons and when are the archives opened again so that Tesla's work could come to light again. Now bear in mind that this man was an electrical genius and even had a unit of electrical measure named after him. If he did figure out a way to utilize the earth's electromagnetic waves then I believe that we are ready to gradually phase out our dependence on oil, ease the volatile tension in the Middle East and put all that money presently going to the Arabs into

OUTSIDE SOURCE

di-

100-2237-37

66 AUG 25 1981

17 AUG 11 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

space research, joint international research and deep-sea research to help solve our population problem. I am talking about huge sums of money being released that could speed up the experts present projected times of producing significant gains in these still relatively new fields.

You could at least take the time to check out what I am saying and judge for yourself whether or not the archives should be opened now to put the world back on a more secure heading.

Sincerely,

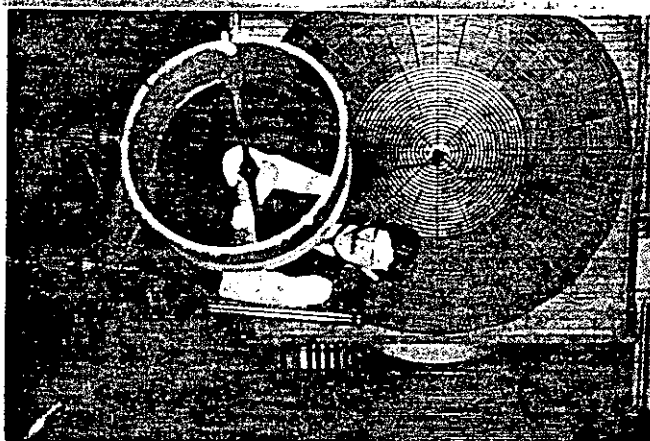


Mike Austin

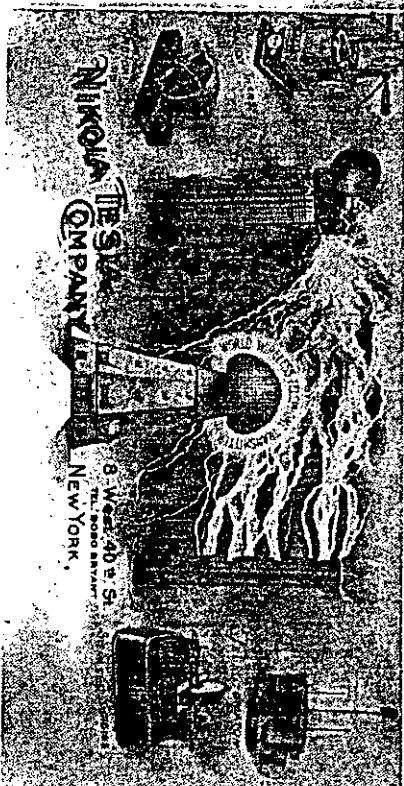
CPL MIKE AUSTIN
3dReconBn S-2
3dMarDiv
FPO SanFrancisco 96602



A trio of scientific greats: Albert Einstein, Nikola Tesla, and Charles Steinmetz, as they appeared in 1921 in a visit to the RCA transoceanic station at New Brunswick, N.J. At the time, Tesla was deeply involved in his patent dispute with Marconi. Only after his death would the U.S. Supreme Court uphold Tesla's claim to be the true father of radio. (RCA)



Tesla in his laboratory, 1898. The device shown is an unconnected coil illustrating the action of two resonating circuits of different frequencies—today one of the basic circuits used in computers. The pressure at the end of the coil facing the viewer (illuminated by streamers) is approximately one half million volts. (Courtesy L. Anderson)



The letterhead of Tesla business stationery recalls some of his more important inventions. In the center is the Wardenclyffe tower as it was intended to look when finished. (Courtesy L. Anderson)

of low frequency, and would yield sinusoidal and continuous oscillations like those of an alternator.

"Taken in the narrowest significance of the term, however," Tesla wrote, "it is a resonant transformer which, besides possessing these qualities, is accurately proportioned to fit the globe and its electrical constants and properties, by virtue of which design it becomes highly efficient and effective in the wireless transmission of energy. Distance is then absolutely eliminated, there being no diminution in the intensity of the transmitted impulses. It is even possible to make the actions increase with the distance from the plant according to an exact mathematical law."

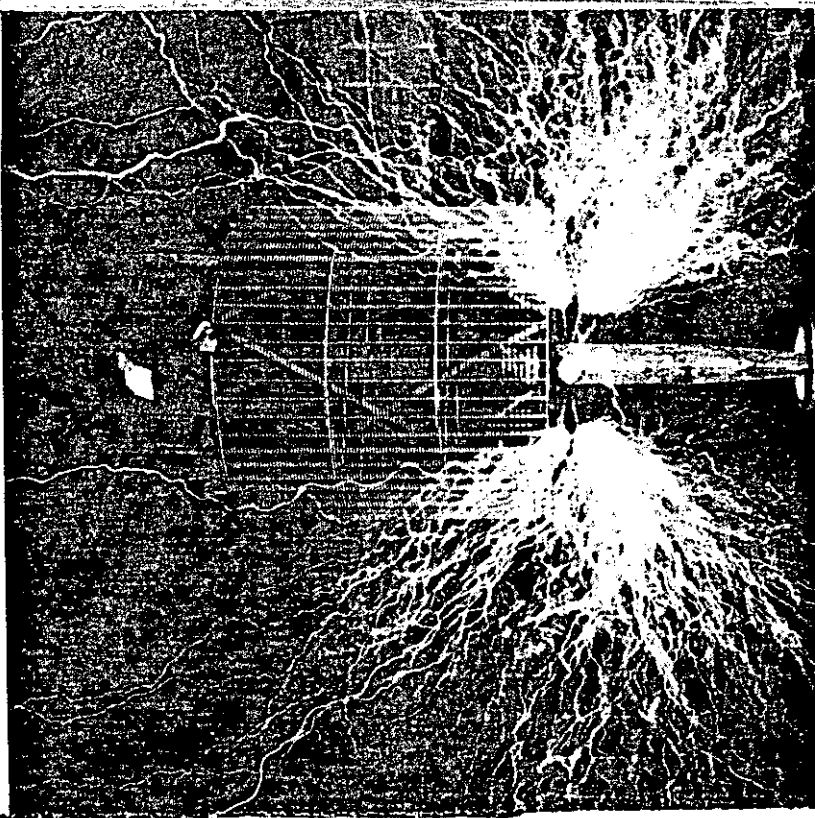
Once this powerful equipment was built and the inventor began testing he was able to emulate the electrical fireworks of even the wildest mountain storms. When the transmitter was operating, lightning arresters in a twelve-mile radius from his station were bridged with continuous fiery arcs, stronger and more persistent than those produced by natural lightning.

For the first time he kept a careful daily diary in which he recorded every aspect of his research. And because visual effects were useful as well as thrilling, he devoted many hours to photographic experiments.

The equipment Tesla was perfecting would, he hoped, one day be adaptable for commercial use. But first, thousands of observations and delicate adjustments had to be made. He no longer trusted his legendary memory to store such a volume of information. His daily notes referred constantly to experiments that had failed to turn out as expected, and he would ask himself why. This process was at sharp variance with the one he claimed to have used throughout his earlier life. Now middle-aged, he may have felt his memory waning slightly. Certainly he felt driven by the pressures of his self-imposed deadline.

In his Colorado Journal his lifelong fascination with visual phenomena is underscored. The flashing lights that he had always experienced on the screen of his mind were dramatically externalized, and his descriptions, among the mass of mathematical formulas, are detailed, loving, almost erotic in their lingering portrayal of the colors and grandeur of his Colorado electrical storms.

Nights when experiments were being made with the magnifying transmitter the prairie sky exploded with sound and color. Even the earth seemed alive and the crash of thunder from the spark gap could be heard for miles. Butterflies were sucked into the vortex of the



Discharge of several million volts cascading around Tesla in his Colorado Springs laboratory. The roar that accompanied such discharges could be heard ten miles away. (Burrduy Library)



Death and Transfiguration

The new government of King Peter, with broad popular support, confronted the Germans and refused to ratify the compromise agreement that had been made with Hitler by Prince Paul. Almost at once reprisals began.

On Palm Sunday, 1941, three hundred Luftwaffe bombers swept over the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade. Methodically they crisscrossed the city street by street, strafing everything that breathed. By noon 25,000 civilians were dead, and the wounded lay everywhere. Most public buildings were left in ruins, including the modern laboratory known as the Tesla Institute.

The combined armed forces of Germany, Italy, Hungary, and Bulgaria invaded the doomed country. Within only days the Yugoslav Army was crushed, and King Peter was sent to England for safety. His government-in-exile would operate from London for the remainder of World War II.

This, however, was only the beginning of the war for Yugoslavs. Accustomed to successive invasions for a thousand years, the people were resilient. The remnants of the Army and Communist factions withdrew into the mountains, from which they launched guerrilla attacks on the invaders. These armed fighters, men and women, were supplied with food grown by the old people and children remaining in undefended villages.

Against them the Nazis and Fascists carried out murderous reprisals. In the fishing villages and along the stony slopes of the Adriatic, half the people in every hamlet were systematically shot.

Soon, however, it became apparent to military strategists in the United States and England that, not only were Axis forces killing Yugoslavs, but rival guerrilla factions of monarchists and Communists had begun to vie for Allied support and were shooting each other as well as the invaders.

Col. Draža Mihailović, a Serbian army officer, led a faction called Chetniks (the "Yugoslav Army in the Fatherland"), composed mainly of Serbian and Bosnian monarchists. With close ties to King

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Peter, they became the first major resistance movement in Europe. The initial British aid to Yugoslavia went to the Chetniks, but it was short-lived. The National Liberation Army or Partisans, led by Josip Broz Tito of the Communist Party, was swiftly rising to prominence.

Allied strategists knew little of Tito. It was said he had been left wounded on a battlefield in 1917 and captured by the Russians. There he was trained as a Communist leader and sent to France during the Spanish Civil War to aid the Loyalists or Republicans.

A Croat, Tito had little reason to love the monarchy, for he was imprisoned after returning to Yugoslavia. On release, he became active in organizing a metal workers' union and helped to build the Yugoslav labor movement. His emergence as head of the Partisans in World War II was that of a natural leader who inspired his fighters and maintained rigorous discipline. He was looking ahead to a time when the Slavs could rebuild a free and united country without oppression either by foreigners or kings.

Tito's goal was to set up committees of popular liberation after the Russian style, while Mihailović and the Chetniks favored local administrative authorities under the monarchy. Both factions kept on killing Germans and Italians but, unfortunately, they also continued murdering each other.

Prof. Bogdan Raditsa*, then director of the information service of the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington, D.C., recalls, "The situation became rather complicated when Yugoslavia collapsed in 1941 and when, at the end of that year, a Royal Yugoslav Mission came to this country." It was composed of members of King Peter's government and the Ban (Governor) of Croatia, Dr. Ivan Subasić. Sava Kossanović, Tesla's nephew, then a member of the Democratic Party, also arrived as a minister of the exiled government.

"As soon as Kossanović came to the States," says Professor Raditsa, "he tried to revert Tesla from the exclusive Serbian policy, and he succeeded. Tesla, even before, never felt himself a Great Serbian chauvinist. He used to say, 'I am a Serb but my fatherland is Croatia.'"

The conflict between Serbs and Croats in exile intensified as the war went on, paralyzing normal Slav diplomatic activities in London, Washington, and New York.

"Kossanović, though a Serb," recalls Raditsa, "was leading the struggle for a brotherhood between the Serbs and Croats against Fofić and many other Serb members of various Yugoslav missions. Raditsa belonged to a family in southern Croatia that had always favored a union of Croats and Serbs."

Thus he began using Tesla for the policy directed against the Great Serbians.

"Tesla himself ... was not aware of the deep conflict between the Serbs and Croats, and as basically a scientist and in old age, he was very candid in politics."

Raditsa said he seemed happy that he finally had a man of his own blood near him in New York and noted that Tesla began to rely upon Kusanovic's opinion on everything. During this period the inventor was receiving about \$500 per month from the royal government as an honorarium.

Various political messages elicited from Tesla for home consumption, says Raditsa, were actually written by Kusanovic.

Toward the end of 1942 the Yugoslav Information Center was opened in New York in the Royal Mission headquarters on Fifth Avenue. Raditsa and Kusanovic worked together at this office, issuing bulletins and other publications. But a crisis broke out when news reached them of the fighting between Mihailovic and Tito.

"Kusanovic," he said, "joined Tito and began to popularize the National Liberation Movement for a new Yugoslavia. He had a terrible time to convince Tesla that monarchy was losing in Yugoslavia and that a new Yugoslavia was beginning to come out from the fratricidal civil war. As the largest majority of Serbs in Croatia were joining Tito, Kusanovic convinced Tesla that he too should join the movement that was largely shared by the masses of the people, Serbs and Croats. So Tesla's message to the Serbs and Croats was written by Kusanovic."

On the walls of the Tesla Museum in Belgrade one may read a vastly enlarged photocopy of the words allegedly sent by Tesla to his embattled countrymen only months before his own death. American Vice-President Henry A. Wallace also had a hand in its drafting. Typewritten, it has many cross-outs and interlinings in Tesla's own handwriting yet the style is that of an ideologue, which the inventor was not.

Out of this war ... a new world must be born, a world that would justify the sacrifices offered by humanity. This ... must be a world in which there shall be no exploitation of the weak by the strong, of the good by the evil, where there will be no humiliation of the poor by the violence of the rich, where the products of the intellect, science, and art will serve society for the betterment and beautification of life, and not the individuals for achieving wealth. This new world shall not be a

world of the downtrodden and humiliated, but of free men and free nations, equal in dignity and respect for man.

The inventor's name also appeared on another message—sent to the Soviet Academy of Sciences on October 12, 1941, urging joint struggle against the Axis powers by Russia, Great Britain, and America, in aid of the revolutionary struggle of the Yugoslav people. This message is not to be seen in the Museum, however, presumably because nostalgia Russian-style has ceased to be politic.

Kusanovic became chairman of the Yugoslav Economic Mission advocating a New Yugoslav federation versus the centralistic prewar royalist Yugoslavia. This new organization also began working for a new Central East European Federation. Raditsa too became a member of the Tito movement.

King Peter was desperately seeking for Mihailovic the support of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, as well as that of his own Uncle Bertie, who was King George VI of England. The British, at first sympathetic to the Chetnik cause, began to change as they received reports of the aggressive actions of Tito's Partisans.

In 1942, King Peter visited Washington to intercede with FDR. Yugoslav pilots were being trained in Tennessee. FDR told him that America would send airplanes to the Chetniks as soon as they could be spared from the war in the Middle East. The monarch visited New York City, attending a large reception for the American Friends of Yugoslavia at the Colony Club. The Colony, the first female socialists club in America, had been founded at the inspiration of energetic Anne Morgan. She attended the function, as did the King's mother, Queen Marie, and Mrs. Roosevelt. It was the sort of affair Tesla himself would have delighted in had he not been weak and ill. So King Peter went to him.

In his diaries (*A King's Heritage*), under date July 8, 1942, the young Peter II writes: "I visited Dr. Nicola Tesla, the world-famous Yugoslav-American scientist, in his apartment in the Hotel New Yorker. After I had greeted him the aged scientist said: 'It is my greatest honor I am glad you are in your youth, and I am content that you will be a great ruler. I believe I will live until you come back to a free Yugoslavia.' From your father you have received his last words: 'Guard Yugoslavia.' I am proud to be a Serbian and a Yugoslav. Our people cannot perish. Preserve the unity of all Yugoslavs—the Serbs, the Croats, and Slovenes."

The King added that he was deeply touched and that both he and Dr. Tesla had wept. He then visited Columbia University, to be warmly welcomed by President Nicholas Murray Butler and to find another link with his own country in the Pupin Physics Laboratory. Returning to Washington, he was assured by FDR that food, clothing, arms, and ammunition would be dropped over Yugoslavia. But he was shocked when, in 1943, the British Mission in Yugoslavia made official contact with Tito. Peter asked to be parachuted into his country, but Churchill demurred. Tito openly accused Mihailovic of being a traitor.⁶

At the Teheran Conference in November there occurred, largely at Churchill's instance, what the King described as a "fatal change" of Allied policy. It was decided that "the basic force fighting the Germans in Yugoslavia recognized by the Allies was the National Liberation Army, under the command of Tito, and the Partisan force received full recognition as an Allied Army. Mihailovic was thus denied and abandoned."⁷

Winston Churchill overnight became a hero of modern Yugoslavia. And when the young monarch frantically wrote to FDR for support, the ailing President replied urging him to accept Churchill's advice "as if it was my own." Within months Roosevelt died.

Tesla's nephew, Kusanovic, along with certain other diplomatic representatives of King Peter, had been dismissed by the monarch at the height of the 1942 crisis. He often told Bogdan Radisa in those days that he felt Tesla had been terribly shocked by his nephew's exclusion from the royal government. In fact, Kusanovic believed that the inventor's death was actually precipitated by his own "setback."

"He thought," Kusanovic repeatedly told Radisa, "that I was punished, and that eventually I would be arrested or something of the kind, but I succeeded to convince him that it was inevitable in politics."⁸

During this period Kusanovic was frank in saying that he tried to keep Tesla from seeing members of the royal government. Ambassador Fotic had become "the enemy" since he still favored a Great Serbian policy as opposed to the changes ahead. Tesla's relationship with this old friend became "lukewarm."

"There is no doubt," says Professor Radisa, "that the whole internecine tragedy of Yugoslavia from 1941 to 1943 must have had a rather depressing impact upon Tesla. Very often he would ask me, could I explain to him what was going on among us, and why we cannot agree...."

After the war, Mihailovic would be executed by a "People's Court" for alleged collaboration with the enemy, and the Republic of Yugoslavia declared to exist, with Tito as President for life and the Communists firmly in charge.

A count of Yugoslavian casualties at the end of World War II disclosed that 2 million persons had died; tragically, many thousands had been killed by fellow Yugoslavs.

"After the war," recalls Professor Radisa, "Kusanovic became a minister in the Tito Subasic Government, and I was his assistant in the Ministry of Information from 1944 to 1945, when I left the country, for I couldn't become a Communist. Later on in 1946, Sava Kusanovic became Tito's ambassador in Washington but I never saw him again after I left Belgrade in October of 1945. Kusanovic had accepted totally the Communist system in Yugoslavia and remained loyal until his death."

There had not been a time in ten centuries when the Yugoslavs had not been ruled and ransacked by invaders—by Venetians, Romans, Turks, Bulgars, Austrians, Hungarians, Germans, Italians, when they were not living under threat of torture, prison, or violent death. Now a marvelous truth began to dawn upon them: that they were free, in a manner of speaking.

Tesla would not live to see this. Whether he could ever have accepted the new government, with its Soviet-type Constitution and a Soviet alliance, whether he could ever have accepted the permanent exile of his beloved monarch, are unanswerable questions.

Unfortunately, however, all this was to have a bearing on how he would be remembered in the West. The fading of his scientific reputation, the forgetfulness of Americans in the postwar period, resulted in large degree from the disappearance of most of his scientific papers behind that new Cold War phenomenon, the Iron Curtain.

In 1948 Yugoslavia ceased to be an Iron Curtain country, declaring its independence from the Soviet doctrine of "limited sovereignty." America and her allies then were generous in sending economic and military aid to the Slavs; but the damage had been done. America had not raced to Tito's wartime support with the alacrity that Churchill had shown. In the future it would not be made easy for American scholars to draw on Yugoslav sources to document the achievements of Nikola Tesla.

The inventor became very feeble in the winter of 1942. His fear of germs was so obsessive that even his closest friends were

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required to stand at a distance, like the subjects of a neurotic Tudor (Pigeon germs did not seem to worry him.) He had heart trouble and suffered occasionally from fainting spells. No longer able to feed his beloved birds, he often relied upon a young man named Charles Hausler, who owned racing pigeons, to take care of them for him.

Hausler had worked for Tesla in this capacity from around 1928 onward, his job being to go to the New York Public Library at noon each day with grain and then to walk around the four sides of the building looking for young or injured birds on window sills or behind large statues. He would take them to Tesla's hotel for rest and recuperation. Then, he has recalled, "I would release them at the library for him." He remembered that the cages in Tesla's rooms had been built by a fine carpenter—"as Mr. Tesla was in all his doings it had to be done right." The pigeons also enjoyed a curtained shower bath.

Hausler and Tesla spent many hours together, talking mostly of pigeons. Once Tesla confided to him that "Thomas Edison could not be trusted." The boy remembered his employer as "a very kind and considerate human person," and there was one incident that stood out in his mind long afterward. "He had a large box or container in his room near the pigeon cages and he told me to be very careful not to disturb the box," said Hausler, "as it contained something that could destroy an airplane in the sky and he had hopes of presenting it to the world." He believed it probably was stored in the cellar of the hotel later.

On a bitter day in early January 1943, Tesla called his other messenger boy, Kerrigan, and gave him a sealed envelope addressed to Mr. Samuel Clemens, 35 South Fifth Avenue, New York City. The boy set forth into the whipping wind and searched fruitlessly for the number. As it turned out, this had been the address of Tesla's first laboratory, but now South Fifth Avenue was West Broadway, and no one by the name of Samuel Clemens lived in the area.

Kerrigan made his way back to the Hotel New Yorker and reported to the sick man. In a weak voice, Tesla explained that Clemens was the famous Mark Twain and that everyone knew of him. He sent Kerrigan forth once more, and this time asked him also to take care of the pigeons. The perturbed messenger fed the birds and then consulted his supervisor, who told him that Mark Twain had been dead for twenty-five years. Once again Kerrigan trudged through the cold afternoon to Tesla's rooms, where he explained and tried to return the envelope.

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The inventor was indignant and refused to hear that the humorist was dead. "He was in my room last night," he said. "He sat in that chair and talked to me for an hour. He is having financial difficulties and needs my help. So—don't come back until you have delivered that envelope." Once again the messenger went to his supervisor and together they opened the envelope. It contained a blank sheet of paper wrapped around twenty five-dollar bills—enough to help an old friend through a little fainting spell.

On the fourth of January, the inventor, although very weak, went to his office to make an experiment that George Scherff was interested in. Scherff dropped in to help him prepare for it. The work was interrupted, however, when Tesla felt a recurrence of some sharp pains in his chest.

Refusing medical aid, he returned to his hotel. Next day a maid came in and cleaned. As she left, he asked her to put the "Do Not Disturb" sign on his door to keep visitors away, and not to bother cleaning. The sign remained there the following day and the one after that.

Early on the morning of January 8, Alice Morenigh, a maid, ignored the sign and entered the apartment to find the inventor dead in bed, his sunken, emaciated face composed. Assistant Medical Examiner H. W. Wernibly examined the body, placed the time of death as 10:30 P.M. on January 7, 1943, and gave his opinion that the cause of death had been coronary thrombosis. Tesla had died in his sleep, and the examiner noted that he had found "No suspicious circumstances." The inventor was eighty-six years of age.

Kenneth Swezey was notified at once, and at ten o'clock that morning he telephoned to Dr. Rado at New York University. King Peter's headquarters, then at 745 Fifth Avenue, was advised by the professor. Tesla's nephew, Kossanovic, then wartime president of the Eastern and Central European Planning Board for the Balkan countries, also was notified.

Then the FBI was called. Swezey and Kossanovic summoned a locksmith and Tesla's safe was opened and the contents examined.

The body was removed to the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home at Madison Avenue and 81st Street and a sculptor was engaged by Hugo Gernsback to prepare a death mask of the inventor. Just before Tesla's death, Eleanor Roosevelt had tried to intercede in his behalf with President Roosevelt—perhaps with the idea of conferring some honor upon him. In the Tesla Museum at Belgrade three brief notes on White House stationery may be read. On

January 1, at the request of author Louis Adamic. Mrs. Roosevelt had promised to ask the President to write to Tesla and said that she herself would call on him on her next trip to New York. The second note is headed, "Memo for Mrs. Roosevelt and is signed FDR: 'I was having this looked into but the papers yesterday carried the story that Dr. Tesla had died. Therefore I am returning the enclosures herewith.' A third note of January 11 from Eleanor Roosevelt to Adamic forwards the President's message and adds her sorrow at learning of the inventor's death.

Adamic wrote a moving eulogy to Tesla that was read by New York Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia over station WNYC on January 10. "Meanwhile the extreme tensions between Serb and Croat factions in the United States were making the planning of funeral services difficult. The body lay in state but, according to an unpublished letter of O'Neill's, "only twelve people, some of whom were newspaper reporters," came to view it.

When state services were held at four o'clock on January 12, in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, however, more than two thousand people crowded in. Serbs and Croats were seated on opposing sides of the cathedral, Bishop William T. Manning having exacted from both factions a promise of no political speeches. The service was begun in English by Bishop Manning and concluded in Serbian by the Very Rev. Dusan Sukletovic.

Among Balkan diplomats present were Ambassador Fotić, the Governor of Croatia, a former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, and the Minister of Food and Reconstruction. In the front row with Kossanovic, chief mourner and head of the important new trade mission, sat Swezey. Dr. Rado had been too ill to attend as an honorary pallbearer.

Figures important in American science and industry who did attend as honorary pallbearers included Professor Edwin H. Armstrong, Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson of General Electric, Dr. Harvey Rentschler of Westinghouse, engineer Cano Dunn, and W. H. Barton, curator of the Hayden Planetarium of the American Museum of Natural History. Newbold Morris, president of the New York City Council, headed this group.

When word of Tesla's death spread abroad to war-stricken Europe, telegrams of tribute and sorrow began pouring in from scientists and governmental leaders alike. In the United States three Nobel prizewinners in physics, Millikan, Compton, and James Franck, joined in a eulogy to the inventor as "one of the outstanding intellects

of the world who paved the way for many of the important technological developments of modern times."

The President and Mrs. Roosevelt expressed their gratitude for Tesla's contributions "to science and industry and to this country." Vice-President Wallace, in the spirit of the new Yugoslavia, declared that "in Nikola Tesla's death the common man loses one of his best friends."

Although Louis Adamic wrongly eulogized Tesla as one who had cared nothing for money, he could not have been more accurate when he said that Tesla was not really dead. "The real, important part of Tesla lives in his achievement, which is great, almost beyond calculation, and an integral part of our civilization, our daily lives, our current war effort. . . . His life is a triumph. . . ."

Among the honors that had come to Tesla in his life were many academic degrees from American and foreign universities; the John Scott Medal, the Edison Medal, and various awards from European governments. In September 1943 the Liberty ship *Nikola Tesla* was launched, an honor that would have pleased the scientist. But not until 1975 was he inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Eight months after Tesla's death, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the decision that he had been confident would come eventually—ruling that he was the inventor of radio.

His body was taken to Ferncliff Cemetery at Ardsley-on-the-Hudson in the deep cold of the winter afternoon. In the car that followed the hearse rode Swezey and Kossanovic. The inventor's remains were cremated and his ashes later returned to the land of his birth.*

In almost every nation in the world, the fighting and dying continued.

*Charlotte Muzar, formerly secretary to Sava N. Kossanovic, carried Tesla's ashes to the Tesla Museum in Belgrade in 1957. Throughout the years Kossanovic had spoken of leaving the ashes in America and had hoped an appropriate memorial to the inventor would be raised in the United States as their resting place.

—Archives, Tesla Memorial Society

29 The Missing Papers



In addition to his acknowledged achievements, Tesla left a legacy of riddles. To pose only three of the most major: Was his unrealized concept for the wireless transmission of energy through the Earth scientifically valid? What actually was he doing in his experimentation with death/disintegrator beam weapons? And what became of his unpublished research papers and other sensitive documents in the days immediately following his death?

In the category of subquestions, what turn of affairs rekindled the intense interest of the U.S. intelligence establishment in Tesla's work (as something surely did) in the late 1940's?

Like Einstein he had been an outsider and, like Edison, a wide-ranging generalist. As he himself had said, he had the "boldness of ignorance." Where others stopped short, aware of what could not be done, he continued. The survival of such mutants and polymaths as Tesla tends to be discouraged by modern scientific guilds. Whether either he or Edison could have flourished in today's milieu is conjectural.

The example set by Tesla has always been particularly inspiring to the lone runner. At the same time, however, his legacy to establishment science is profound for his research, although sometimes esoteric, was almost always sweeping in its potential to transform society. His contribution was major rather than incremental. His turbine failed in part because it would have required fundamental changes by whole industries. Alternating current triumphed only after it had overcome the resistance of an entire industry.

But there was an unfortunate corollary to Tesla's lone battles with the scientific-industrial establishment. Since he was part of no group or institution, he had no colleagues with whom to discuss work in progress, no formal, accessible repository for his research notes and papers. He worked not just in private, but—his love of flamboyant announcements to the press notwithstanding—in secret. Thus any inventions which he did not patent or give freely to the world were more or less shrouded in mystery. And, because of the handling of the

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papers he left behind after his death, the range of his achievement continues to remain a partial mystery.

If this has been frustrating to the scientists who have succeeded Tesla, it has at least been stimulating. After a period of obscurity, the one hundredth anniversary of his birth in July, 1956 brought an international reawakening to the importance of the inventor's life and genius. Interest in his work, fired by a growing awareness of the riddles surrounding it, has been escalating ever since, almost as if he had been reborn in his true psychological age.

He was honored by centennial celebrations in America and Europe. The American Institute of Electrical Engineers dedicated its fall meeting in Chicago to a review of his life and inventions. Commemorative programs were arranged by the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Franklin Institute, and various universities, the Tesla Society playing an active role in such recognition. Permanent memorials in the form of scholarships and medals were proposed and exhibits presented by science museums. Special ceremonies were conducted at Niagara Falls, and a statue was later erected in his honor on Goat Island, a gift from the people of Yugoslavia. Chicago, reminded by attorney/author Elmer Gertz that it should be eternally grateful to him for having made the Columbian Exposition of 1893 the "wonder of the globe," dedicated a new public school to Tesla's memory.

The inventor's old colleagues of the AIEE journeyed to Europe to attend more celebrations, statue unveilings, and dedications in his honor. The International Electrotechnical Commission in Munich took formal action, making his name an international scientific unit, the tesla joining such historic electrical symbols as farad, volt, ampere, and ohm.

As the exploration of space accelerated, so did interest in Tesla, especially from the standpoint of beam weaponry and microwave work. In America, Russia, Canada, and various other countries, projects in his name or derived from his pioneering, from weather-control to nuclear fusion, began to attract scientific attention. Some were just the shoveling efforts of loners, their laboratories old Quonset huts. Some were top secret and financed by enormous budgets.

Tesla's year of secret experiments at Colorado Springs in 1899 provided the basic impetus for much of this new exploration. His *Colorado Springs Notes*,* when they appeared in English in 1978 [This book may be ordered from Nott, Teezje, 27, Belgrade, Yugoslavia (about \$40).

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under the imprint of the Tesla Museum at Belgrade, were eagerly awaited by many scientists. But even this work left important questions unanswered.

The bulk of his papers having vanished from America, reliable information was harder to come by than the recurring rumors of conspiracy, espionage, and patent theft. Scientists thought it strange that some aspects of his Colorado Springs research found in scattered sources did not appear in the Yugoslav-published *Notes*. Only by piecing together fragmentary information could the magnitude of his experiments be comprehended.

Around 1928 O'Neill, by merest chance, had happened to see a legal advertisement in a New York newspaper announcing that six boxes placed in storage by Nikola Tesla would be sold by the storage warehouse for unpaid bills. Feeling that such material should be preserved, he went to the inventor and asked permission to try to obtain funds to reclaim the material.

"Tesla hit the ceiling," he recalled. "He assured me he was well able to take care of his own affairs. . . . He forbade me to buy them or do anything in any way about them."

Shortly after the inventor died, O'Neill got in touch with Sava Kosanović, told him about the boxes, and urged him to protect them. He was never able to get a positive statement from Kosanović that he had obtained the boxes and examined the contents. "He gave evasive assurances that there was no reason for me to worry. . . ."

Others too were interested in the papers. A young American engineer engaged in war work consulted Tesla on a ballistics engineering problem because he could not get time on an overworked computer, and Tesla's mind was known to offer the nearest thing to it. Soon he became fascinated with Tesla's scientific papers and was allowed to take batches of them home to his hotel room where he and another American engineer pored over them each night. They were returned the next day, a procedure which continued for about two weeks prior to the inventor's death.

Tesla had received offers to work for Germany and Russia. After the inventor died, both engineers became concerned that critical scientific information might fall into foreign hands and alerted United States security agencies and high government officials.

The relevant records that I have obtained from federal agencies under the Freedom of Information Act reveal strange twistings and inconsistencies in the handling of the inventor's estate. Tesla left tons of papers, barrels and boxes full of them. But he left no will. He was

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survived by five nieces and nephews, of whom two lived in America at the time of his death.

Curiously, the FBI released his estate to the Office of Alien Property, which promptly sealed the contents. Since Tesla was an American citizen, the OAP's concern in the matter was hard to justify. After a court hearing, however, the estate was released to Ambassador Kosanović, one of the heirs.

Sweeney, who also had hoped to write a biography of Tesla (his death intervened), received the following account in 1963 from a former aide of Ambassador Kosanović:

"Back in 1943 . . . when Tesla died, it was a matter of very short time when Mr. K was issued a certificate from or by the Office of Custodian of Alien Property conveying to Mr. K full rights to the Tesla papers. . . . he had them all packed up and sent off to the Manhattan Storage Company where they remained until ready for packing and shipping off to Yugoslavia in 1952. Mr. K paid for storage charges. . . . All this time the certificate from the Alien Property Office was in my possession (in case of need). . . ."

"You will perhaps remember that a number of times Mr. K mentioned the fact that the custodian at the storage warehouse told him that some government guys were in to microfilm some of the papers. . . . when we opened the safe in the present museum building (in Belgrade, Yugoslavia) the bunch of keys, which was the last thing Mr. K flung into the safe at the New Yorker Hotel before the combination was re-set to a new combination, were not found in the safe, but in an entirely different box. Also the gold medal (the Edison Medal) was missing from the safe. . . . Anyway, for years and years Mr. K was bothered by the fact that Tesla papers had been gone thru and just before his departure from Washington in 1949-50(?) he decided to follow my suggestion to call Edgar J. Hoover (sic) and ask him. Mr. Hoover denied categorically that the FBI had gone into the papers. . . ."

The aide said Tesla had told his nephew that "he wished to leave his works, property, etc., to his native country" (Not only is this uncorroborated but the papers were in English.)

Immediately after Tesla's death an exchange of telegrams flew between FBI Agent Foxworth of the field division of the New York Bureau and the director of the New York Bureau of the FBI. The day following discovery of the body, Agent Foxworth reported:

"Experiments and research of Nikola Tesla, deceased. Espionage—M. Nikola Tesla, one of the world's outstanding scientists in the electrical field, died January seventh, nineteen forty three at the

Hotel New Yorker, New York City. During his lifetime, he conducted many experiments in connection with the wireless transmission of electrical power and ... what is commonly called the death ray. According to information furnished by X [name deleted], New York City, the notes and records of Tesla's experiments and formulae together with designs of machinery ... are among Tesla's personal effects, and no steps have been taken to preserve them or to keep them from falling into hands of people ... unfriendly to the war effort of the United Nations...." (The FBI was, however, advised by the office of Vice-President Henry A. Wallace that the government was "vitaly interested" in preserving Tesla's papers.)

Boyce D. Fitzgerald, "an electrical engineer who had been quite close to Tesla during his lifetime," continued Foxworth, "advised the New York office that on January seventh, nineteen forty three, Sava Kosanovic, George Clark, who is in charge of the museum and laboratory for RCA, and Kenneth Swezey ... went to Tesla's rooms in the New Yorker [author's note: the correct date would have been January 8], and with the assistance of a locksmith broke into a safe which Tesla had in his rooms in which he kept some of his valuable papers.... Within the last month, Tesla told Fitzgerald that his experiments in connection with the wireless transmission of electrical power had been completed and perfected.

"Fitzgerald also knows that Tesla had conceived and designed a revolutionary type of torpedo which is not presently in use by any of the nations. It is Fitzgerald's belief that this design has not been made available to any nation up to the present time. From statements made to Fitzgerald by Tesla, he knows that the complete plans, specifications and explanation of the basic theories of these things are some place in the personal effects of Tesla. He also knows there is a working model of Tesla's, which cost more than ten thousand dollars to build, in a safety deposit box belonging to Tesla at the Governor Clinton Hotel, and Fitzgerald believes this model has to do with the so-called death ray or the wireless transmission of electrical current.

"Tesla has also told Fitzgerald in past conversations that he has some eighty trunks in different places containing transcripts and plans having to do with experiments conducted by him. Bureau is requested to advise immediately what, if any, action should be taken concerning this matter by the New York Field Division."

Kosanovic later reported to Walter Gorsuch of the Office of Alien Property in New York that he first went to Tesla's rooms with the

other men to search for a will. After the safe was opened, Swezey took from it a book containing the testimonials sent to Tesla on his seventy-fifth birthday, while Kosanovic took from the room three pictures of Tesla. According to the manager of the New Yorker Hotel and Kosanovic, nothing else was removed. The safe was closed under a new combination, which combination was in Kosanovic's exclusive possession.

On January 9, Gorsuch of OAP and Fitzgerald went to the New Yorker Hotel and seized all of Tesla's property, consisting of about two truckloads of material, sealed it and transferred it to the Manhattan Storage and Warehouse Company. It was added to about thirty barrels and bundles that had been there since about 1934, and these too were sealed under orders of the OAP.

In addition to the question of the legitimacy of Alien Property's involvement in the case is the question of why Kosanovic was allowed to have access to the safe's combination, from which he later claimed the Edison Medal had vanished. Tesla's American naturalization papers, which he so prized that he always kept them in his safe, may now be seen at the Tesla Museum in Belgrade, but it is not known what other papers or objects were in the safe.

The Washington Bureau of the FBI went so far as to advise the New York Bureau "to discreetly take the matter up with the State's Attorney in New York City with the view to possibly taking Kosanovich into custody on a burglary charge and obtaining the various papers which Kosanovich is reported to have taken from Tesla's safe." New York was also told to contact the Surrogate Court so stops could be placed against all of Tesla's effects, so that no one could enter them without an FBI agent being present, and New York was to keep Washington advised of all developments.

The idea of arresting the Yugoslav ambassador was quickly dropped. And very soon the Washington headquarters made a curious decision. Edward A. Tamm of the FBI in Washington advised D. M. Ladd of that Bureau that the whole matter was being turned over to the Custodian of Alien Property, and Tamm noted, "There appears to be no need for us to mess around in it."

Soon the well-known electrical engineer Dr. John G. Trump, who was serving as a technical aide to the National Defense Research Committee of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, was asked to participate in an examination of Tesla's scientific papers. Present at the Manhattan Warehouse & Storage Company in addition

to Dr. Trump were Willis George, Office of Naval Intelligence, Third Naval District, Edward Palmer, chief yeoman, USNR, and John J. Corbett, chief yeoman, USNR.

Dr. Trump reported afterward that his examination was made of the vast amount of Tesla's property that had been in the basement of the New Yorker Hotel for ten years prior to his death, or of any of his papers except those in his immediate possession at the time of death. It should be remembered that Tesla's scientific reputation had been in eclipse for a number of years and that there had been many efforts to discredit his claims in radio, robotics, and alternating current. Dr. Trump was a busy man, just as the staff of the FBI was stretched thin by its preoccupation with investigating wartime sabotage.

"As a result of this examination," wrote Dr. Trump, "it is my considered opinion that there exist among Dr. Tesla's papers and possessions no scientific notes, descriptions of hitherto unrevealed methods or devices, or actual apparatus which could be of significant value to this country or which would constitute a hazard in unfriendly hands. I can therefore see no technical or military reason why further custody of the property should be retained."

He added: "For your records, there has been removed to your office a file of various written material by Dr. Tesla which covers typically and fairly completely the ideas with which he was concerned during his later years. These documents are enumerated and briefly abstracted in the attachment to this letter."

In closing Dr. Trump said: "It should be no discredit to this distinguished engineer and scientist, whose solid contributions to the electrical art were made at the beginning of the present century, to report that his thoughts and efforts during at least the past fifteen years were primarily of a speculative, philosophical, and somewhat promotional character—often concerned with the production and wireless transmission of power—but did not include new sound, workable principles or methods for realizing such results."

The file (of which Dr. Trump's notes were only an abstract) consisted apparently of either photostats or microfilm made by the naval officers present, and the original papers apparently remained in storage, later to be transmitted to Yugoslavia. The examination had failed to disclose any alien-owned property subject to the vesting power of the Alien Property Custodian under the Trading with the Enemy Act. Tesla's papers and personal effects were released in

February of 1943 for disposition by Kozanovic, the administrator of his estate.

Dr. Trump's abstract included the following:

"*Art of Telegeodynamics, or Art of Producing Terrestrial Motions at Distance*—This document, in the form of a letter dated June 12, 1940, to the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., proposes a method for the transmission of large amounts of power over vast distances by means of mechanical vibrations of the earth's crust. The source of power is a mechanical or electromechanical device bolted to some rocky protuberance and imparting power at a resonance frequency of the earth's crust. The proposed scheme appears to be completely visionary and unworkable. Westinghouse's reply indicates their polite rejection...."

"*New Art of Projecting Concentrated Non-Dispersive Energy through Natural Media*—This undated document by Tesla describes an electrostatic method of producing very high voltages and capable of very great power. This generator is used to accelerate charged particles, presumably electrons. Such a beam of high-energy electrons passing through air is the 'concentrated nondispersive' means by which energy is transmitted through natural media. As a component of this apparatus there is described an open-ended vacuum tube within which the electrons are first accelerated.

"The proposed scheme bears some relation to present means for producing high-energy cathode rays by the cooperative use of a high-voltage electrostatic generator and an evacuated electron acceleration tube. It is well known, however, that such devices, while of scientific and medical interest, are incapable of the transmission of large amounts of power in nondispersed beams over long distances. Tesla's disclosures in this memorandum would not enable the construction of workable combinations of generator and tube even of limited power, though the general elements of such a combination are succinctly described.

"*A Method of Producing Powerful Radiations*—an undated memorandum in Tesla's handwriting describing 'a new process of generating powerful rays or radiations.' This memorandum reviews the works of Lenard and Crookes, describes Tesla's work on the production of high voltages, and finally in the last paragraph gives the only description of the invention contained in the memorandum.... 'Briefly stated, my new simplified process of generating powerful rays consists

in creating through the medium of a high-speed jet of suitable fluid a vacuum space around a terminal of a circuit and supplying the same with currents of the required tension and volume."

Long afterward in a letter to a colleague, Dr. Trump told what happened when he visited the Hotel Governor Clinton to examine the "device" stored in its vault, presumably the same box remembered by the messenger boy in Tesla's room.

"Tesla had warned the management that this 'device' was a secret weapon," said Dr. Trump, "and it would detonate if opened by an unauthorized person. Upon opening the vault and indicating the package containing the secret weapon, the hotel manager and employees promptly left the scene." The federal agents, who had come along also, pulled back, the better to give him the sole distinction of opening the parcel.

It was wrapped in brown paper and tied with a string. He remembered hesitating, thinking how beautiful the weather was outside, and pondering on why he was not outside too.

He lifted the parcel onto a table and, mustering his courage, snipped the string with his pocket knife. He removed the wrapping inside was a handsome polished wooden chest bound with brass. It required a final effort of courage to raise the hinged lid.

Inside stood a multidecade resistance box of the type used for Wheatstone bridge resistance measurements—a common standard item to be found in every electrical laboratory before the turn of the century!

Why had Tesla seen fit to terrify the staff and management of the hotel with this harmless object for so many years? Perhaps he had become so accustomed to having his hotel bills paid behind his back, believing that the hotels, honored to have him living there, had routinely dismissed the billings, that he was insulted when the Governor Clinton brazenly demanded its \$400.

Although the FBI closed its Tesla file in 1943, it didn't seem to want to stay closed. It was reopened in 1957 when an informant complained that a New York couple were issuing newsletters containing "information pertaining to flying saucers and interplanetary matters" and exploiting the inventor's name and fame. They allegedly claimed that Tesla's engineers, after his death, had completed a "Tesla Set," a radio device for interplanetary communication, that the device had been placed in operation in 1950 and since then Tesla engineers had been in close touch with alien spacecrafts. Once again the FBI decided no action was warranted and the file was closed.

Swezey had never put much credence in the "secret weapon" rumors and had written to an inquirer: "Because Tesla was a recluse, and himself liked to talk in mystifying terms during his later years, I think many legends have been built up about the dozens of ideas he had evolved but which were not permitted by others to see the light of day."

He said he had known the inventor well for two decades before his death. "Tesla's greatest genius flamed up during a dozen or so years just before and slightly after the turn of the century. What he did after that may have carried the germs of some of the developments we are witnessing today, but he had not carried any of them—at least on paper or in any other tangible form—to the point of practicality."

Perhaps, but between 1945 and 1947 an interesting exchange of letters and cables occurred among the Air Technical Service Command at Wright Field, Ohio, in whose Equipment Laboratory much top-secret research was being performed. Military intelligence in Washington, and the Office of Alien Property—subject, files of the late Nikola Tesla.

On August 21, 1945, the Air Technical Service Command requested permission from the commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Force in Washington, D.C., for Private Blyce D. Fitzgerald to go to Washington for a period of seven days "for the purpose of securing property clearance on enemy impounded property."

On September 5, 1945, Colonel Holliday of the Equipment Laboratory, Propulsion and Accessories Subdivision, wrote to Lloyd L. Shaulls of the OAP in Washington, confirming a conversation with Fitzgerald and asking for photostatic copies of the exhibits annotated by Trump from the estate of Tesla. It was stated that the material would be used "in connection with projects for National Defense by this department," and that all of it would be returned in a reasonable length of time.

That was the last time that the Office of Alien Property or any other federal agency in the United States admitted to having possession of Tesla's papers on beam weaponry. Shaulls wrote to Colonel Holliday on September 11, 1945, saying, "The materials requested have been forwarded to Air Technical Service Command in care of Lt. Robert E. Houle. These data are made available to the Army Air Force by this office for use in experiments; please return them." They were never returned.

These were the full photostatic copies, not merely the abstracts. OAP has no record of how many copies were made by those who

August 7, 1981

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OUTSIDE SOURCE

Corporal Mike Austin
3d Reconnaissance Battalion-S-2
3d Marine Division
FPO San Francisco 96602

Dear Corporal Austin:

Judge Webster has referred your letter of July 21st to me for a reply. A check of our files indicates Dr. Nikola Tesla's effects were impounded after his death by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice and not by the FBI. While your interest is indeed appreciated, the FBI is unable to answer your questions as we did not participate in the handling or have anything to do with the storage of Dr. Tesla's belongings.

To be as helpful as possible, I am forwarding a copy of this communication to the Department of Justice.

Sincerely,

S

Roger S. Young
Assistant Director in Charge
Office of Congressional
and Public Affairs

1 - Acting Assistant Attorney General - Enclosure
Civil Division

NOTE: Corporal Austin is not identifiable in Bufiles. Dr. Tesla died on 1/7/43 and we have received much correspondence regarding his belongings which were impounded by the Office of Alien Property of the Department of Justice.

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involvement in the seizing of Nikola Tesla's research papers and other documents and scientific instruments after his death on January 7, 1943.

They both explained that Tesla was a scientific genius and experimenter who was born in Yugoslavia of Serbian parents on 7/10/56, went to school later in Gratz, Austria, Prague, Czechoslovakia and Paris, France. He immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1880's, worked for Thomas Edison's laboratory for a couple of years, then started his own lab after being paid \$1 million dollars for rights to his patents on his polyphase systems of alternating current dynamos, which lead to the harnessing of Niagra Falls for producing electricity and then the power system of the whole country. He was naturalized in 1889. He predicted wireless communication (radio). His later experiments in Colorado and elsewhere lead to his producing artificial lightning in the millions of volts. He also had patents on the concept of neon and flourescent lights, but he later made little money on his later inventions, although he continued to do experiments leading to devices of great potential worth, which he never patented. He became more reclusive in his later years, living in various hotels in New York City. In the 1930's he claimed he had developed the concept and method of building a "death ray", which could destroy planes at many miles distant, for defending America. Also, there are reports of resonance machines or devices whereby he could shake one or many large city buildings from some distance away.

Both Stowall and Butler said that Tesla donated "some" of his papers (or copies thereof) to the Tesla Institute in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; set up in the 1930's in his honor by their government. Biographies on Tesla claim that either the custodian of Alien Property and/or the FBI seized his papers and other personal effects, including a safe or safes, and other property immediately after his death in 1943. This is elaborated on in the enclosed copies of certain pages of Margaret Cheney's book, "Tesla: Man Out of Time".

Butler said that after World War II Tesla's papers were shipped to the Tesla Institute in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, by his nephew, Sava Kosanovic, who had become Tito's Ambassador to the U.S. There were reports that some microfilming of Tesla's papers by government agents while they were still in storage in New York under Kosanovic's custody.

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Also, the Soviet Union has allegedly had access to some of Tesla's papers, possibly in Belgrade and/or else where, which influenced their early research into directed energy weapons, and Butler feels access to much of Tesla's papers on lightning, beam weapons and/or "death rays" would give him more insight into the Soviet beam weapons program. This is Butler's area of expertise and responsibility. He has been unable to locate any Tesla papers or copies of same in the classified or unclassified libraries at WPAFB. However, there are reports that some portions of them were shipped by the Custodian of Alien Property Office in Washington, D.C. to a technical research lab at WPAFB, possibly the "Equipment Lab", now closed for some years or reorganized into another organization.

Butler and Dr. Stowall are both desirous of learning the locations of such papers of Tesla as now exist in the U.S., for both intelligence and research purposes. Therefore, Butler would like to examine FBI files relating to Nikola Tesla and possibly any on Sava Kosanovic, his nephew who received the bulk of his papers after Tesla's death, and may possibly have been the subject of FBI investigation.

Butler travels to the Washington, D.C. area on FTD business periodically and can review FBI files at FBIHQ relating to Tesla and Kosanovic.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

The Bureau is requested to conduct full indices checks on both Nikola Tesla and Sava Kosanovic.

Should there be such files at FBIHQ, as well as at New York, it is requested that Bureau consider granting the above Joseph Butler of FTD, official access to same, in the interest of national security.

LEADS

NEW YORK

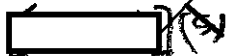
AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Will conduct same indices check as requested of Bureau and advise the Bureau and Cincinnati of results and confirm such files and references still exist there.

~~SECRET~~

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CINCINNATI

AT DAYTON, OHIO

Will maintain contact with Joseph Butler and
Dr. Stowall.

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"A VISIONARY GENIUS AS FERTILE AS
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SCIENCE..."

Flamboyant, eccentric, almost supernaturally gifted, had he been born today he would still be ahead of his time. Called a madman by some, a genius by others, and an enigma by nearly everyone, Nikola Tesla was perhaps the greatest inventor the world has ever known. He was a trailblazer who created astonishing, world-transforming devices, often without theoretical precedent. It was Tesla who harnessed the alternating electrical current we use today... Tesla who actually invented the radio... Tesla who invented fluorescent lighting and the incredible bladeless turbine. He introduced us to the fundamentals of robotics and computer and missile science, which continue to create and transform the future.

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MARGARET CHENEY is a science writer and author of two other nonfiction books. She lives in California.

The Sunday Times of London



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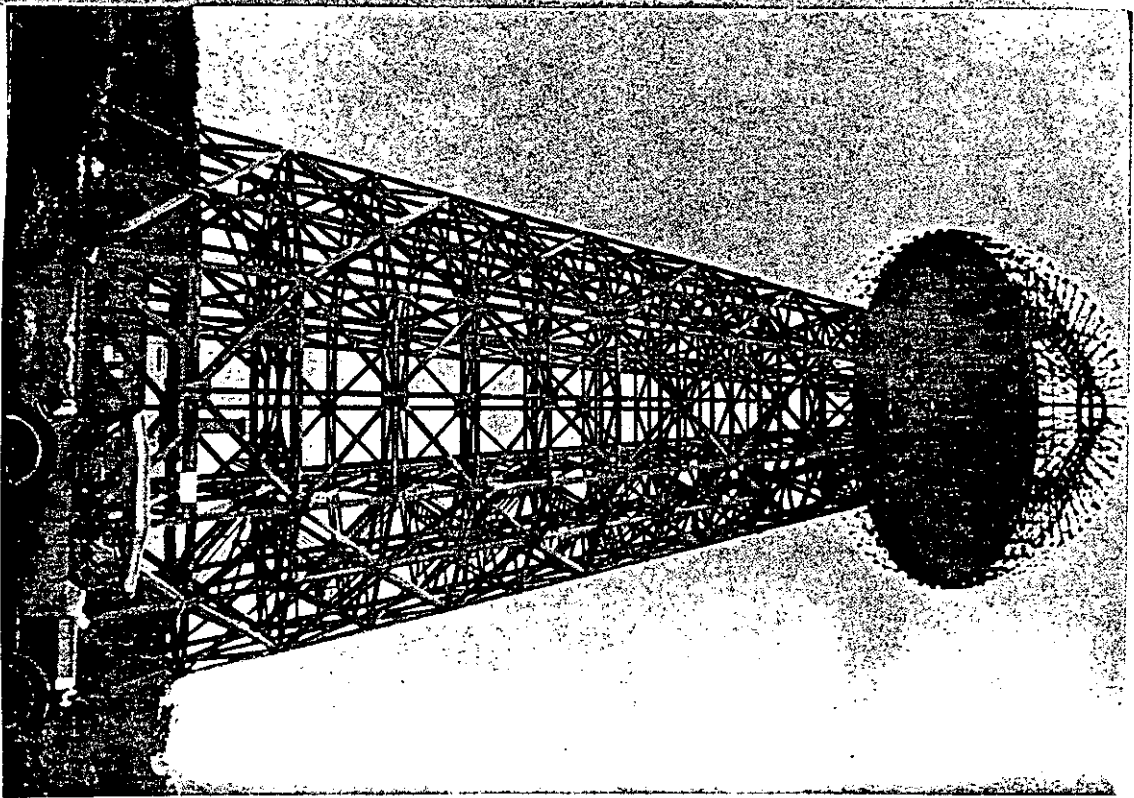
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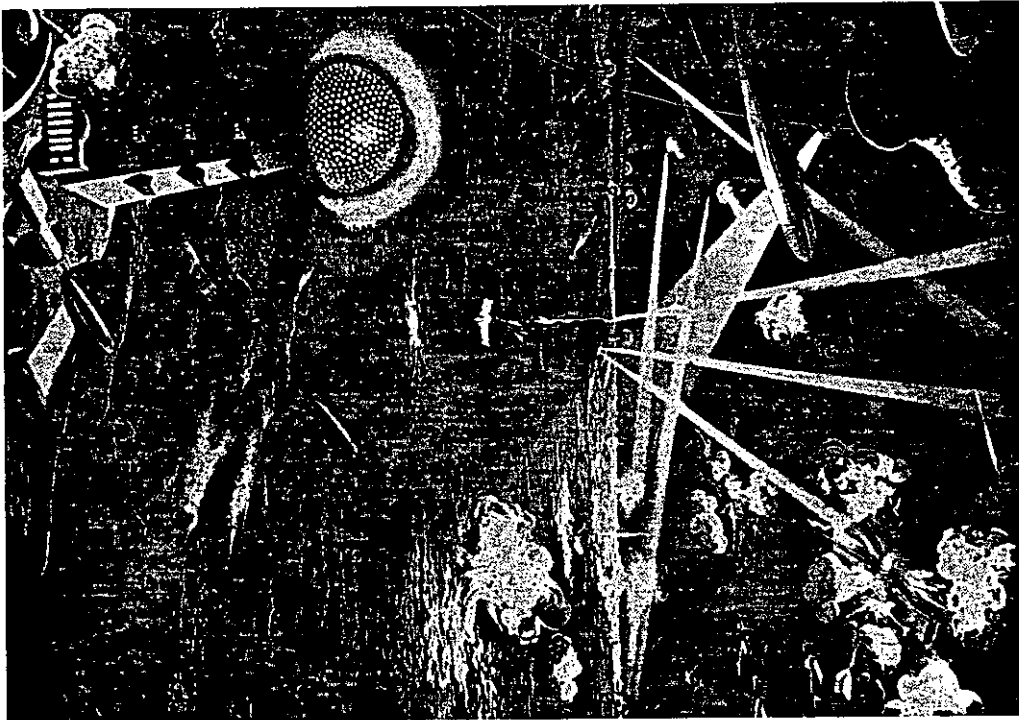
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ENCLOSURE



The ill-fated Wardenclyffe tower built in 1901-03. It was intended for radio broadcasting and wireless transmission of power across the Atlantic. (Courtesy L. Anderson, after photo by Lillian McChesney)



An artist's rendering of Tesla's concept of the war of the future. The towerlike structures (based on the intended final form of the Wardenclyffe tower) are directing remote-controlled defenses against robot attackers. As Hugo Gernsback wrote in *Science and Invention*, where this illustration appeared, "Machines only will meet in mortal combat. It will be a veritable war of Science." (Gernsback Publications, Inc.)